The Long Island FISHERMAN

35c

The Difference Between Just Fishing and Catching Fish!

MAY 12th, 1977, ISSUE No. 17

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See Fishing Reports On Page 28.

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The Long Island FISHERMAN

The Difference Between Just Fishing and Catching Fish!

VOL. 12, No. 17 — MAY 12th, 1977

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About the Cover—

Fred Morello of Central Islip with six of the giant tilefish that the Speedy VI out of Captree has been scoring with on her offshore expeditions. The center fish weighed 52 pounds and the rest are all in the 40s. See the photo story on Page 26.

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EDITORIAL

Can We Overfish?

The question of overfishing is one that has been and is constantly on the minds of many knowledgeable anglers. The recent fight for the 200 Mile Limit perhaps generated more interest in this topic than all prior controversies, but many folks pointed towards overfishing as the cause of the demise of weakfish, fluke, seabass, porgies, and blowfish in years past.

Can we overfish? This is not a black-and-white question, and the answer must be complex! We must separate large scale, high technological fishing from local, less sophisticated approaches.

It is doubtful that sportfishermen can be blamed for over-harvesting simply because the techniques that they employ require a tremendous amount of fish to be in a given area before they will score. Take Montauk, for example. A common fishing style out there employs various techniques to work the rips. For every fish taken by trolling or diamond jigging, there are a few thousand below that never take a hook. We've observed flounder in shallow water many times over the years. When there are only a few dozen fish in the vicinity of our baits, our take has been slow and few. But when the action has been hot, the bottom was literally paved with fish.

As the schools of any species declines, there is less competition for the available food. The fish fill their bellies faster and there is little pressure to eat while you can. However, when the fish are plentiful there is tremendous competitive pressure to eat when you can. It's like being one of a dozen kids. In large families, when the food hits the table, everybody attacks as though they haven't eaten in days. In small families, the pace is leisurely because competition is less. We've never heard a mother complain about poor eating habits among children in a large family, but the complaint is common when there are only one or two children.

The same is true with fish. Our sportfishing catches will decline to almost nothing long before we put any species in danger of extinction. We'll give up our pursuit! Catching fish by hook and line is not the same as setting up a Buffalo Stand! The bisons were visible, the fish are obscured by water; the bisons stayed put in one place for days, the fish are always on the move.

Even local commercial operations will not be able to force a species of fish into extinction. Long before the fish are in danger of extinction, the catch per unit effort will become so low that the commercial operations will be bankrupt. Something akin to this has happened the last few years among haul seiners at Montauk. The stocks of striped bass have declined and the remaining fish have been migrating further off the beach than they usually do. Result: haul seiners have taken relatively few bass and some operators have been forced into early retirement.

Our small U.S. draggers are also not a threat to any species. Their techniques and technology are so primitive that they could not possibly over-harvest.

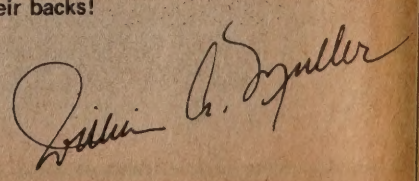
But the foreign factory ships—that's another story! Do you know that the East German vessels now use equipment that makes it possible for them to take every single fish in a school? They have advanced electronic equipment attached to the outside edges of their nets. The captain on the bridge sees the school as the net approaches. As the net takes its harvest, he is able to see how many fish escape on each side of the net and he also knows in what direction they moved. He can double back on that part of the school that he missed. As the vessel and its net approaches the fragment of the school, he sees the direction and speed of their movement and can adjust the speed and the course of his vessel to compensate. After a few manuevers, he has captured the entire school.

This kind of fishing is dangerous, not just because it wipes out a particular school, but because this process is repeated over and over again, day after day as the vessel works in the migration zone of the fish.

Can this kind of fishing over-harvest and bring about the extinction of a species or many species of coastal fishes? YOU BET IT CAN!

This is why coastal zone management and the 200 Mile Limit were so important and this is why we must stand on guard to ensure that the Regional Fisheries Management Councils are productive: that they produce the kinds of rules and regulations that will prohibit such possibilities and allow for the stocks of ocean fishes to increase to a level of adequate abundance. That is why The Fisherman provides its readers with as much up-to-date information on the Councils as is available.

We'll give them a chance, but if they don't deliver, salt water anglers everywhere are going to jump all over their backs!



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CHUM LINES

FISH TASTE LIKE KEROSENE

I do my shore fishing in the Coney Island area, and frequent the fishing fleet out of Sheepshead Bay, Brooklyn. Upon eating the fish I've been fortunate enough to land, I inevitably detect an oily, kerosene-like flavor or aftertaste, which makes the eating experience less than enjoyable. Does anyone out there—fishermen, captains, chefs, fishing writers, etc., know any way to resolve this problem, or lessen it? Does there exist some method of preparing or marinating the meat? Some method of cooking? Are any species less likely to have this unpleasant characteristic than others? Any and all help would be greatly appreciated. I can be reached by phone during the day at 212-989-0404, and my address is: 157 Bay 44th St., Brooklyn, N.Y. 11214. *Marc M. Yelnick.*

The answer to your problem probably lies in the manner of preserving your catch, not in the quality of the fish themselves. Do you hang your catch overboard while fishing? Do you put them in a sack that might be contaminated? Do you clean with oiled knife? Do you cook your fish slow? Do you bake your fish? It's difficult to find a precise answer to your question, but I assure you that the fish are fit to eat! Dr. W. A. Muller

MORE ON "HOMO DUMIS"

As a subscriber of long-standing (our initial subscription was $3), we have enjoyed LIF for many reasons, and have generally agreed with your editorials, which we have found to be basically sound, true reporting. Being content, by nature, to be part of the "silent majority" that constitute the majority of our vast country, we have refrained from voicing our opinion, pro or con, and have sat back and accepted whatever other, more vociferous readers have had to say.

Your editorial of April 14, 1977 has caused us to alter our policy, and we must now rise up and take a stand with you against "Homo dumis," in reference to your editorial policy. You most definitely are 100 percent correct in condemning to Hell, all those who claim you to be strictly pro-commercial, and anti-sport, oriented. We do not condone unlimited or unmanaged control of commercial striped bass fishing, nor do we believe in making these great fighters achieve exclusive game fish status. Probably the very same "fishermen" doing all the squawking are the very same ones that ship tons of hook and line caught bass to market every year anyhow.

While we are totally against a socialistic form of government, with "Big Brother" overseeing your every move, we feel that proper management of our fisheries, with the benefits derived from study, research, and conservation and ecological practices, could very well lead to the restoration of our dwindling fish populations, and we should take whatever immediate measures that could lead to that end result.

Please continue to fight your good fight, Doc, and the devil take the hindmost! If you get a lot of flak, or static from those ignorant of accepting the truth when they see it, then we say to Hell with them, because the majority of true sportsmen are in accord with your beliefs, and you are, in reality, speaking out for most of us.

Continue with telling it like it is, and remember that Jesus said: "Ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall set you free." What better time than now, when we have just celebrated the joy of Easter, to remind "Homo dumis" of this fact.! *Andy Regina.*

To date, we have received a number of *letters about the HOMO DUMIS editorial; some of it positive, and some of it negative. Whether you agree with the editorial or not, you have to give it points for generating a great deal of interest and discussion. Thanks for the kind words. Dr. W. A. Muller.*

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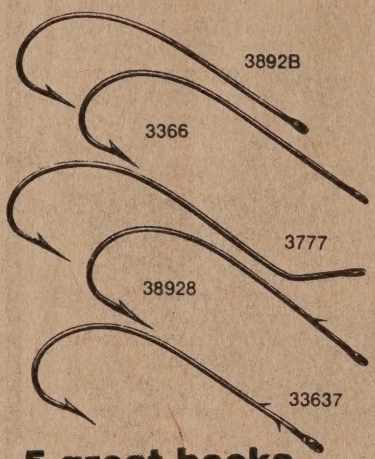

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Pass It On...

NEW REGULATIONS FOR CATCH OF ATLANTIC BLUEFIN TUNA PUBLISHED

Proposed amendments to the Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Regulations, were published in the Federal Register on Friday, April 29, 1977, Volume 42, No. 83, Page 21825, which change certain aspects of the 1976 regulations which allowed the Director of the National Marine Fisheries Service to establish fishing seasons, quotas, reporting requirements, enforcement procedures, and penalties relating to the catching of bluefin tuna.

The proposed amendments to the 1976 regulations, issued under authority of the Atlantic Tunas Convention Act of 1975, in effect implement recommendations adopted by the International Commission for Conservation of Atlantic Tunas. The Commission is responsible for the study of the populations of tuna and tuna-like fishes in the Atlantic Ocean, and recommends proposals for joint action by member governments to maintain fish stocks at levels permitting maximum sustainable catch.

Member countries of the Commission are Brazil, Canada, Cuba, France, Ghana, Ivory Coast, Japan, Korea, Morocco, Portugal, Senegal, South Africa, Spain, and the United States.

The major changes in the regulations are as follows:

1. Provisions that these regulations are effective until amended or repealed.

2. Opening of the season for taking giant tuna, those weighing in excess of 300 pounds round weight, by purse seine on September 1st.

3. Provisions establishing a special scientific and tagging quote for Atlantic bluefin tuna weighing between 115 and 300 pounds round weight.

4. Provisions that vessel certificates issued for 1977 will remain valid until returned to the Regional Director or until the vessel otherwise leaves the fishery or changes ownership.

5. Provisions prohibiting the catching and releasing of tuna without tagging the tuna with tags obtained from the NMFS.

6. Provisions to allocate the purse seineing quotas on a vessel basis.

7. Provisions restricting the kind of purse seine net allowed in the fishery.

8. Provisions requiring a port inspection of purse seine vessels by a particular date and in a particular place and requiring purse seine vessel inspection prior to unloading.

9. Provisions requiring that purse seine vessel reports be made to the Regional Director when the vessel has achieved its assigned quota.

10. Numerous editorial changes have been made for the purpose of improving readability and understanding of the regulations.

11. Remaining essentially unchanged from the 1976 regulations, are the size of quotas.

In addition, the proposed amendments require that the owner or operator of a fishing vessel wishing to fish in 1977 for Atlantic Bluefin Tuna weighing in excess of 300 pounds must obtain an appropriate vessel registration certificate from the Regional Director, National Marine Fisheries Service, 14 Elm Street, Gloucester, Massachusetts, 01930. The certificate will be issued without fee upon completion of a registration form, which can be obtained from the same address, and will remain valid from year to year, until the vessel changes ownership, is destroyed or is returned to NMFS. The certificate must be carried, at all times, on board the vessel for which it was issued and the owner or operator is required to maintain a log book record of fishing operations, to be returned to the NMFS at the end of each monthly reporting period during the season, and also, to submit a catch report upon landing a giant Atlantic Bluefin Tuna.

Interested parties will be afforded an opportunity to comment on the proposed amendments at a public hearing to be held at the Holiday Inn, Peabody, Massachusetts, beginning at 9:00 a.m. on Monday, May 16, 1977. Consideration will be given to any data, views, or arguments pertaining to the proposed amendments which are submitted either at the Public Hearing or before May 27, 1977, by writing to the Regional Director, Northeast Region, National Marine Fisheries Service, 14 Elm Street, Federal Building, Gloucester, Massachusetts, 01930. For additional information, contact the Regional Director, Tel: 617-281-3600.

BOATING

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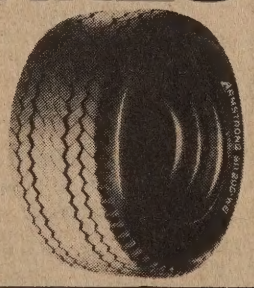

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★ DEALER INQUIRIES INVITED ★
Capt. John Sekora, Box 189, Montauk, N.Y. 11954

CLUB NEWS

FARRAGUT STRIPER CLUB MAKES QUINCY TRIP

The Farragut Striper Club held its annual "Flounder Pounder" at Quincy, Mass., this weekend for members and guests. We took a shade under 100 men on the trip, and a conservative estimate of 6,000 flounder, plus 30-40 cod, and a mess of pollock, were taken.

The pool flounder was taken by Bruce Marin of the Farragut Club, a fish of 3-1½ pounds. Second place was taken by a guest; the fish was just under 3-1½ pounds. The average flounder went about two pounds, and one cod tripped the scales at 22 pounds.

Chumming seemed to be the key to success for exceptional fishing; however, the men who did not chum did very well. The bus trip to Quincy is long and tiring, but with fishing like this, the effort was well worth it.

ATLANTIC ANGLERS COD CHARTER

The Atlantic Anglers held their annual codfishing charter on May 1st, out of Montauk on the Tri Dent II. Twenty-one guests and members enjoyed a beautiful day, with a hard-working captain. High hook for the day was Ralph DiDomenico, who was also blessed with a double header: one fish was a 35 pounder, the other was a 25.

The Atlantic Anglers seek new members. Interested fishermen either write or call membership chairman, Tim Walters, 458 Broadway, Bethpage, N.Y., after 7 PM. Telephone is WE 5-3956.

G.S.B.M.S. ELECTS NEW OFFICERS

At the April 28, 1977 annual meeting of the Great Sout Beach Mobile Sportfishermen (GSBMS), the following were elected to the Board of Directors for the coming year:

President: Harold Babcock; **1st Vice President:** Joseph Henthorne; **2nd Vice President** David Niebuhr; **Secretary:** Terry Ehmann; **Treasurer:** James Hoolan. **Directors for 3 Years:fletcher Bedell, George Ehmann, William Fritz, and Robert Hansen. Director for 2 Years:** Susan Henthorne. **Directors for 1 Year:** Richard Lenquist, Charles Van-Valkenburgh.

These people join board member James Watson, our new Junior Past President, Douglas Mayranen, Richard McDowell, Dales Oles, and George Siebert. Further information about may be obtained by writing to P. O. Box 66, Patchogue, N.Y. 11772.

Sinker Bouncing

with Matt Ahern

BLACKFISH Part One

I am sure experienced sinker bouncers will agree most large blackfish are caught when fall fishing. Yet, with all that, my largest black to date, weighed a shade less than thirteen pounds, and was taken on a slice of skimmer some years ago on a memorable Memorial Day.

At the time, I was engaged in the pursuit of humpback sea bass on Seabright's offshore rock piles. That fish gave me one damn good fight, and you may be sure I'll never forget it. This, of course, was an unusual fish for so late in the season, but to keep it interesting, an occasional five or six pound springtime black, caught over local wrecks and grounds, has gone into my bucket—proving that good-sized blacks are available in spring, dyed-in-the-wool, fall blackfishermen notwithstanding.

I'm also certain experienced anglers will agree that, more so than any other of our bottom dwellers, blackfish have been responsible for rescuing more sinker bouncers from the inevitable doldrums of below-average angling into the much sought after realm of master fishermen.

The built-in challenge of the cunning blackfish seems to be "catch me, if you can." Here is a pugnacious fish capable of honing one's angling ability to a razor-like edge in short order. If you can learn to master the blackfish, future success with other bottom feeders—from flounder to cod—is assured.

Now that spring blackfishing is upon us, the opportunity to sharpen that fishing skill is here. And because the black is a wily character, I believe a few pointers are in order for the inexperienced angler to attain any amount of success.

First of all, forget for the time being whatever it is you've learned about catching less wary fish. That sure-fire method developed for hooking flounder, won't work here. Neither will that hard-won technique of nailing the quick-biting porgy at the first nip. These seldom work on the cagey, highly suspicious black. Using those tried and true techniques is guaranteed to lead the novice blackfisherman to soul-searing frustration in short order. You may be sure that the angler, who consistently catches blackfish, is a master fisherman par excellence. He's in a class by himself, and I doff my fishing cap to him.

To become a successful blackfisherman, I believe it is necessary to know as much as possible about this fish's life style, and feeding methods. The black is a downy bird, indeed. Make no mistake about that. Be advised that any fisherman suffering from a chronic lack of patience, or harboring a short temper, should think twice before tackling this crafty cuss. This angler is urged to pursue less vigilant fish. Success is sure to come sooner.

Much of my early study of blackfish came about through on-the-spot observations, when, as a kid, visiting the old New York Aquarium at Battery Park, on Manhattan's lower tip was a way of life. What an ideal place that was for the fisherman with an unquenchable thirst for knowledge!

For years, I practically lived there—and it was all free and available seven days a week. You may believe that for me this fish palace was the cause of much hookey-playing. It was here where I could devote to my heart's content, much time and study to my beloved fish—and in their own environment! What more could a fish-happy kid want? Blacks, cod, fluke, sea bass, porgies, all eventually unfolded their "secrets" to me. Just about any kind of bottom fish of interest was available—even bergalls!

Upon entering this fisherman's paradise through its fortress-like doors (which at one time it was), I never allowed the barkings of hungry sea lions, the bellowings of mean-tempered alligators, or the comic antics of strolling penguins, to distract me in the least. I always headed straight for the enormous saltwater tanks, with their huge plate glass windows encircling the walls of both upper and lower floors.

The blackfish tank, probably ten or twelve feet long, six wide, and five high, was rock-studded on one end, with patches of open sand where the fish could be observed during feeding time. This feeding schedule was posted directly beneath the tank, and you may be certain I always made it a point to be there at the appointed time. (Hence, the hookey-playing.)

A dozen or so medium-sized blacks, and a cluster of bergalls inhabited the tank and they lived high off the hog when feeding time arrived. I quickly became aware that these particular blackfish were pretty smart cookies. They anticipated this schedule just as well as the higher forms of marine life, such as the aforementioned noisy sea lions.

Minutes before the actual feeding, there would be noticeable signs of restlessness. No longer would the blacks be seen taking their ease by lying upside-down, or wedged between the rocks on their sides, or in any of the thousand and one positions blackfish are known to assume while resting. All would be "on their feet," so to speak, peering fixedly from their nooks and crannies, staring avidly toward the open sand patches.

Should the attendant be late making his rounds, even the bergalls would put on a display of impatience. This would take the form of peevish bursts of energy extending five or six inches toward the feeding area, followed by a reluctant return to the hide-out whenever a further wait was deemed necessary. They reminded me of nervous race horses at the starting gate.

Food was always fed from the surface, which couldn't be seen, and was in the form of small crustaceans. These appeared to be green crabs and/or china-back fiddlers. I don't recall ever seeing sliced clam used. There was no rush as the crabs descended, but the instant they touched bottom and attempted to scurry to the sanctuary of the rocks, the blacks and bergalls were there, ready to pounce. And here, several interesting things occurred.

The bergalls never fed first. They always waited for the leavings. Whether they were afraid of the blacks, or if it is nature's way, I can't say; but I do know that this is what happened continuously in the tank. No doubt when in proximity to each other, this occurs in their natural environment, too. There was no deviation in this phenomenon.

The largest blacks ate first—always. No doubt a pecking order exists in the sea, as well as the barnyard. Once the big boys' appetites were sated, the others joined in, but never before.

But, the most important aid to the fisherman, was the blacks unique method of feeding. I believe it is in this area where the angler can learn much about blackfish. I noticed that feeding blacks always hovered over their intended victims. They would actually roll their eyes as they maneuvered for the best angle of approach. Not once did I notice a black rush from its sanctuary and gulp food in that lightning-swift attack I'd seen fluke and cod make. The black seems never to worry about its meal getting away. Its attack, if it can be called that, seemed always well calculated. It appeared to be more of the leisurely glide one would expect from a fish that rarely moves more than a few feet from its feeding area.

Unquestionably, the startled crabs were well aware of their danger, for they would rear up on spindle-legs and extend tiny claws in defense. This, of course, is what the blacks waited for. The cagey blacks would immediately move in for the kill, and with several rapid-fire nips of their strong front teeth, succeed in rendering their victims defenseless. The crabs were then consumed, and passed to the gullet in one quick motion.

The foregoing is the distinctive method blacks always use when feeding. It therefore behooves the fisherman to bear this in mind at all times, and use it to his advantage. If he does this, he is sure to see his catch of blackfish increase in short order. Never, I repeat never, attempt to sink the hook at the first bite. If you do, you will most likely miss the fish completely. At best, you will have a lightly, lip-hooked fish, which may not matter much if the fish is small, but if it is large, there is an excellent chance of losing it. Be advised to always wait for that solid tug which denotes that the fish has taken the hook deeply.

Next week we'll discuss hooks, rigging, and methods used to become a successful blackfisherman.

FISHERMAN PUBLICATIONS

At last! Books on local fish written by local fishermen for local fishermen! The books below are the first three in a series of 20+ being published by The Fisherman for our readers. Order today!

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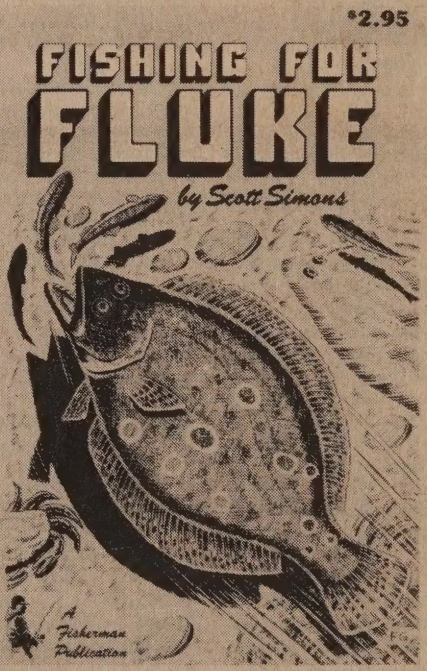

FISHING FOR FLUKE
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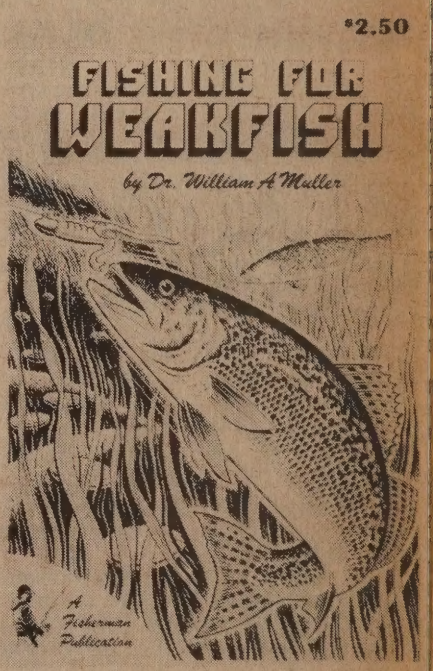

FISHING FOR WEAKFISH
by Dr. William A. Muller

The first *all-new* book to be published exclusively on catching weakfish in more than 25 years! Chapters devoted to *Tackle, Artificial Lures, Natural Baits,* and an in-depth *Where-To-Go* Section! Illustrated w/70 photos & dia. 80 pages.

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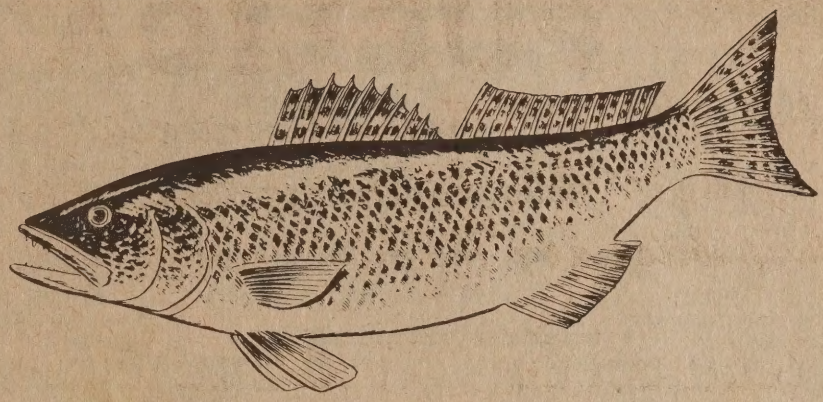
Fish Talk
with Dr. W.A. Muller

WEAKFISH
Environmental Tidbits
Cynoscion regalis



CYCLICAL WEAKFISH. Weakfish e a cyclical fish! No doubt about it! ny fish that can sink from a pinnacle of opularity to virtual obscurity, and then se back to peak abundance again in a an of 35-40 years, has got to be given ints for that!

What causes such dramatic ups and wns in abundance? How about a pical biologist's answer? Well, here es! The eggs and juveniles do not cceed! It's true of course, but it's a p-out! What we really need to know is hy the eggs and larvae don't succeed.

SCIENTISTS DISAGREE. You'll prob-ly not find two scientists who will gree on the reasons for such drastic pulation fluctuations. The lack of nfident conviction among colleagues es not convince me to straddle the nce. I think that I understand what appens pretty well. The problem is not erharvesting. Weakfishing, both com-ercial and sportfishing, was but a adow of today's pressure during the 30s. For all the romantic ramblings at you have read, few boats plied the aters of Peconic Bay, and even fewer ats worked the Great South Bay.

GUESSES ON REASONS FOR FLUC-UATION. What then were the factors at caused the decline of the weakfish in e 1930s and 1940s?.

I believe that the key is the eelgrass (**Zostera marina**). Eelgrass is the plant at grows in dense beds in shallow ys, creeks, and sounds. The leaves are ng and narrow, and the color is a rownish-green. When the plant is oped from the bottom, it washes up to the beach, where it gathers in what oks like dense confused masses of pewriter ribbon.

ANYWAY, THERE IS A FUNGUS (**Labyrinthula macrocystis**) that attacks e eelgrass. It causes a wasting disease, at is, the plant's leaves turn to mush, d decompose. The fungal disease comes epidemic when the eelgrass eds become thick and luxurious. The st epidemic occurred during the 1930s.

SECOND, THE 1930S WERE RETTY ROUGH WEATHER-WISE. he dirty thirties really earned their ame. There was the all-time record tting, low temperatures for the New ork Metropolitan area. The month was ebruary, and the year was 1934, and e New York City temperature was 15 egrees below zero fahrenheit! Throw in few blizzards and two hurricanes which rreled up the coast during the 1930s. he of these was severe enough to wipe t the old Town of Montauk. As a sult, the town was moved from Fort nd Bay to its present location on gher ground. The result of these storms was the destruction of millions of acres of eelgrass beds.

VOILA, NO EELGRASS, little successful weakfish spawning; hence few little weakfish. You gotta have little weakfish before you can have big ones, so I think that you can guess the final result!

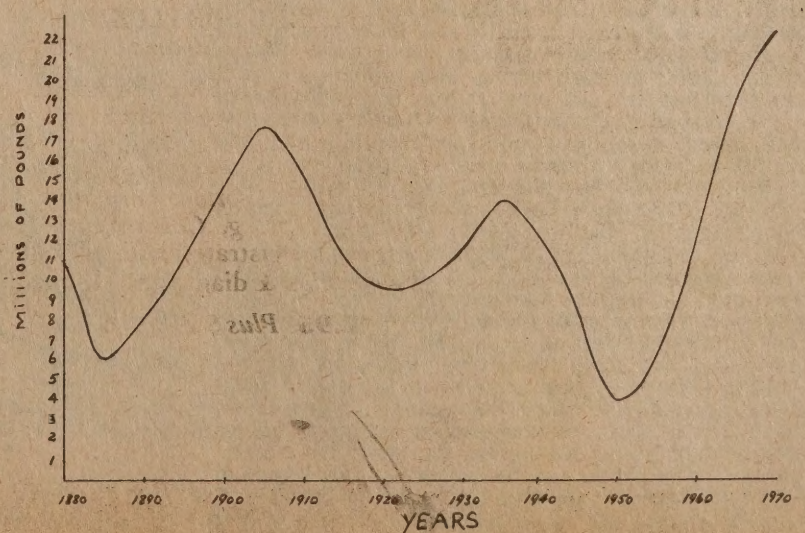
OTHER FACTORS ARE INVOLVED TOO! Changes in water temperatures, currents, bait availability, and other natural environmental fluctuation, may cause the severe fluctuations in weakfish abundance. These factors are difficult to identify at this time.

OLD WIVES TALES ABOUT WEAKFISH! When the bluefish increase, the weakfish decrease, and vice-versa. That sounds good, except that the up-turn in the present weakfish cycle began (in 1969) when bluefish were probably more abundant than they have been in anyone's memory. Let's not forget also that when the 1930s run of weakfish petered out, the bluefish population wasn't exactly "busting open the ocean seams!"

HURRICANES AND WEAKFISH, hurricanes and weakfish, go together like a horse and carriage ...Nonsense! Do we forget so fast? As I recall, there was Hurricane Carol which tore up the northeast in the 1950s—not exactly prime weakfish years! And the northeast was **not** hit by a single hurricane during the first half of this decade!

DON'T FORGET! We now have minimum weakfish size laws in some states. New York State requires that all weakfish under 12 inches be released. The idea behind minimum size laws is to allow juveniles to mature, and reproduce at least once before they are harvested. Couldn't hurt!

CYCLICAL ABUNDANCE OF WEAKFISH



Surf Side with Fred Schwab

CASTING FOR WEAKFISH PART I

The rather sudden and unexpected resurgence of the weakfish, which became apparent along the Northeast Coast some six years ago, was certainly a welcomed addition to the inshore sportfishery. Their re-appearance was most timely, in view of the increasingly noticeable deterioration of the striped bass fishery.

For those anglers who prefer to do their fishing with artificials, the return of the weakfish not only increases their choice of game fish, but to some extent, fills the void being left by the declining bass fishery. This is especially true during the spring, for the migratory timetable of these two species is similar; therefore, many striper anglers, in response to the lack of early season bass runs, have turned to fishing for weaks during May and June. For the past few years, I've been among that growing number. Oh, my abandonment of spring bass fishing is not complete; they're my first choice, and will always be. I still manage to scratch out a few each May and June, but the type of action that I've experienced during the past few spring seasons, hardly justifies devoting all of my fishing effort to the striped one's.

That striped bass are my first choice, is in no way meant to imply that I regard the game fish qualities of the weakfish as being inferior. In my opinion they're equal, and on light tackle, it "may" be that pound-for-pound, weakfish have a slight edge? Another point in the weaks favor, at least in the opinion of my family and I, is that on occasion I'll bring a fish home for the table, and in our house, we find them more pleasing to the palate than bass. Then too, there is the presence of PCB contamination in the flesh of stripers.

During the past several years, I've enjoyed some great sport with weaks, and in the process, learned a few things which should be of value to beginners, and perhaps, of interest to those veterans of the surf who are willing to break away from their restless, and often frustrating, search for bass.

First of all, the most productive spring fishing for weaks occurs within the inlets and bays, rather than along the ocean beaches. Food supply, water temperature, and spawning—which occurs within many bays during May and June—are, in all likelihood, the prime factors which prompt the "weakies" to congregate in these areas during spring and early summer.

In general, locations which have the combined features of an abundant food supply, and a slow-to-moderate current or rip which develops on the dropping tide, provide the best action for the shore-bound angler during the spring.

Emphasis is placed on the use of light tackle, not just for sporting purposes and added enjoyment, but to handle the lightweight lures which are a must if one hopes to achieve a reasonably consistent rate of success. While weaks have a varied diet, during the early spring, their primary souces of food are small bait fish, and grass shrimp, and under normal conditions, lures which closely imitate such baits will result in the most strikes. A spinning outfit consisting of a light and flexible 6½ to 7-foot rod, and a small reel filled with six or eight pound test monofilament, and equipped with a very smooth drag, will do nicely. Serious minded anglers intent on achieving success will find that waders are a must.

The first decent catches by shore-bound anglers varies, dependent upon the area in question. In Great South Bay, this generally occurs during the second week in May. However, some action can be expected during the first week of April, and real hit-and-miss fishing is possible during late April. Despite the fact that some outstanding catches are recorded into October—mostly by boat anglers—by the end of June, there is a noticeable decrease in the number of weaks within the bays. Thus it is that the shore-bound fisherman has his best shot at them during the first two months of the season.

During the early stages of the run, or until the middle of May, the best fishing is likely to occur during daylight hours. However, depending upon tide and wind conditions, as well as the presence of bait, dawn and dusk or a heavily overcast day, are preferred.

During those early weeks, and prior to consistent nighttime action, surface swimmers, such as the Rebel and Red Fin-Floater models, are not very effective. The fish show a marked preference for lures which travel beneath the surface, or which bounce or are dragged along the bottom. While I do not pretend to know the full reason for this, a partial explanation can be found in the type of food which is most abundant at that point in time. At least within the areas that I fish, grass shrimp and small sand eels are the most dominant "visible" sources of food in early May. Both have a tendency to conceal themselves on, or near, the bottom and in amongst marine growth. This being the case, it is logical to assume that, in order to satisfy their appetites, the weakfish are forced to spend a great deal of time poking about along, or very close to the bottom.

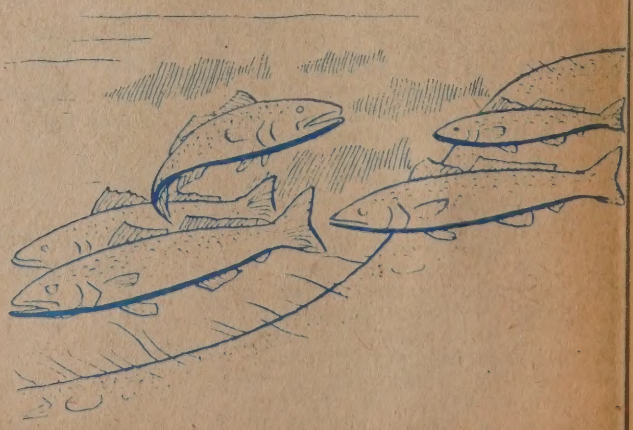
Retrieved at variable rates of speed, and bounced or sort of "hopped" along the bottom, bucktails, the Tri-Fin Whiptail, and the many plastic shrimps—such as the Tout and Salty Dog in 1/4 to 5/8 ounce sizes—are effective. Heavier models of these lures may be necessary where deep water and an extremely fast current combine to prevent the effective use of the lighweights. However, with but one or two exceptions during the early days of the run, it's been my experience that locations which "combine" these two extremes, do not produce with consistency. Relatively deep water, with a slow or moderate current, and a sand bar, mud flats or marsh area nearby, seems preferable. Of course, one should never lose sight of the very simple fact that fish are where you find them and also, they do not read what fishermen write about them. Should they not be in your favored location, seek them elsewhere, and be equipped to effectively fish under a variety of conditions.

Other lures which produce well are the 3½ inch Mirro Lure, and three inch Cisco Kid, both of which weigh in the neighborhood of 5/8 of an ounce; purchase those which have a reflective surface, such as a silver or gold tinge along the sides. Small jigs, like the Hopkins, in one-half to one ounce weights, and the 3/8 ounce Bass Master, have their moments and should be carried along.

Remembering that your objective is to imitate an injured or frightened bait fish scurrying about in an erratic and nervous manner, these types of lures should be retrieved with frequent variations in speed and movement until you find a combination which gets results. Work them at slow and moderate speeds, with abrupt but short, or sweeping but gentle, lifts of the rod tip. Unless the fish are seen on top, fast retrieves which cause the lure to run just below or to skip along the water's surface, should be avoided.

While emphasis has been placed upon the use of these lures during the spring, they and the many similar types available on today's market, will catch weaks throughout the year and except for the jigs, most are effective at night.

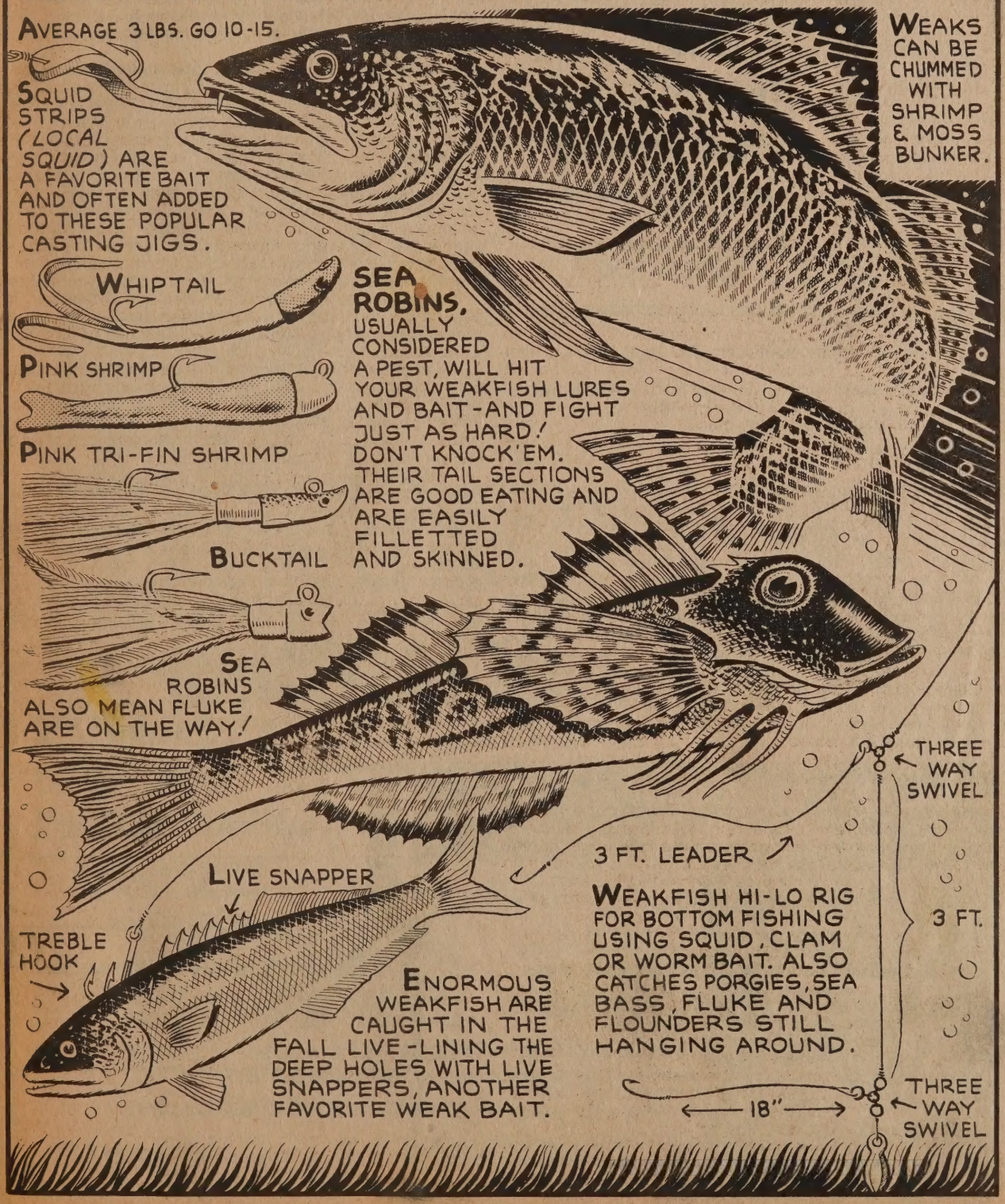
Part II will discuss a few specific locations; describe the type of terrain most likely to produce weaks, and cover a few related matters.



WEAKFISH JIGS & RIGS

BY FRED GUARDINEER

WEAKFISH MAKE THEIR SPAWNING RUN IN MAY-ARE GREAT SPORT TO CATCH AND FINE TABLE FARE. THEY TAKE A VARIETY OF BAIT AND LURES. ITS MOUTH TEARS EASILY, HENCE THE NAME "WEAK" AND SHOULD ALWAYS BE NETTED. THE BIGGEST AND MOST WEAKS ARE TAKEN AT NIGHT BY SHARPIES AND GILL NETTERS, BUT GOOD WEAKFISHING CAN BE HAD IN THE NORMAL DAY TIME HOURS.


AVERAGE 3 LBS. GO 10-15.
WEAKS CAN BE CHUMMED WITH SHRIMP & MOSS BUNKER.
SQUID STRIPS (LOCAL SQUID) ARE A FAVORITE BAIT AND OFTEN ADDED TO THESE POPULAR CASTING JIGS.
WHIPTAIL
PINK SHRIMP
PINK TRI-FIN SHRIMP
BUCKTAIL
SEA ROBINS, USUALLY CONSIDERED A PEST, WILL HIT YOUR WEAKFISH LURES AND BAIT-AND FIGHT JUST AS HARD! DON'T KNOCK 'EM. THEIR TAIL SECTIONS ARE GOOD EATING AND ARE EASILY FILLETTED AND SKINNED.
SEA ROBINS ALSO MEAN FLUKE ARE ON THE WAY!
LIVE SNAPPER
TREBLE HOOK
ENORMOUS WEAKFISH ARE CAUGHT IN THE FALL LIVE-LINING THE DEEP HOLES WITH LIVE SNAPPERS, ANOTHER FAVORITE WEAK BAIT.
THREE WAY SWIVEL
3 FT. LEADER
WEAKFISH HI-LO RIG FOR BOTTOM FISHING USING SQUID, CLAM OR WORM BAIT. ALSO CATCHES PORGIES, SEA BASS, FLUKE AND FLOUNDERS STILL HANGING AROUND.
3 FT.
18"
THREE WAY SWIVEL

The possession of information obtained from radar does not relieve any vessel of the obligation to conform strictly with the rules and, in particular, the obligations contained in Rules 15 and 16: pages 25-28, C.G. 169, 1972.

In fog, mist, falling snow, or heavy rainstorms, whether by day or night the signals described shall be used, as follows:

Sound Signals and Conduct in Restricted Visibility

Inland—The status of the small vessel is very much in doubt as to what type of signalling device must be on board with regard to fog signals. Article 15: By "steam vessels" on the whistle or siren; by "sailing vessels" and "vessels towed" on the fog horn.

Navigation & Seamanship

with Capt. Irv Levine

Inland/International
★ RULES IN FOG ★

The basic fog signals in this chapter should not be confused with the signals sounded when vessels are in sight of each other. That is one blast answered by one blast; two blasts answered by two blasts. In the event of restricted visibility, every vessel without exception, shall sound only the fog signals as prescribed by law.

1. Steam vessel under way—one prolonged blast every minute.

2. Steam vessel towing—one prolonged blast, followed by two short blasts every minute. The towed vessel may give this signal and she shall not give any other.

3. Anchored vessel—Rapid ringing of a bell for five seconds every minute. NOTE: There are exceptions in anchorage areas.

4. Danger signal—When either vessel cannot understand the course, or intention of an approaching vessel. That vessel may sound not less than four short rapid blasts.

5. A steam vessel "**Hearing**" a fog signal forward of her beam (fig. #1) and cannot determine the position of that vessel, shall stop her engine(s) and navigate with caution until danger of collision is over. However, with due respect to this rule, if such a proceeding would involve certain and immediate peril, then you may proceed with caution.

"It is unquestionably the duty of every master of a ship, whether in intense fog or great darkness, to exercise the utmost vigilance, and to put his vessel under command so as to secure the best chance of avoiding all accidents, even though such precautions may occasion some delay in the prosecution of the Voyage." This passage was written over a century ago by Dr. Lushington, famous Admiralty Jurist of England.

Article 29: Rules of Good Seamanship:

A lookout shall be positioned on the vessel, when under way day or night, and even under some circumstances when at anchor. The lookout's sole duty shall be just that, a lookout, preferably an experienced seaman charged with duty of observing lights, sounds, echoes or any obstruction to navigation. This rule is applicable to motor boats and capital ships. Collision at sea occurs more frequently on inland waters than on the high seas.

A Personal Statement: Hundreds of hours have been spent in researching these articles for both The Long Island Fisherman, and to those mariners who attend my evening classes. I have taken the liberty to point out important facts, but because of the limited space, many of the rules have been shortened to their simplest form for an easier understanding. There are several sets of rules: Pilot, Inland, International, Great Lakes, and Western Rivers. Perhaps the time has arrived for local, state, Federal and Maritime nations to agree on one set of rules for all. It is mind boggling to accurately fix your position with regard to Inland and International boundary lines. One set of distinct rules for all could possibly limit the loss of life and property. The following statement is dedicated to those boatmen who think they are above the law when traveling at high speed on protected waters, or on the high seas. When traveling in restricted visibility, your vessel shall go at a moderate speed. The Supreme Court has defined moderate speed as any speed which will enable the vessel to come to a dead stop within half the distance of visibility. The vessel on the opposite course will have an equal distance in which to stop after the vessels are in sight of each other. When there is little or no visibility, then moderate speed should be about three or four knots (fig. #2).

Sound Signals and Conduct in Restricted Visibility

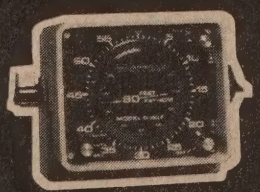
International—Moderate speed, the possession of information obtained from radar. Rules of Good Seamanship shall be treated with the same respect as previously stated. However, there are some basic changes intended only for International Rules.

Rule 15: A power-driven vessel of 40 feet or more in length, shall be provided with an efficient whistle. A sailing vessel of 40 feet or more in length, shall be provided with a mechanical fog horn.

This statement is somewhat confusing, because statements #1 and #2 do not dictate what type of signalling device is required for vessels less than 40 feet in length.

A vessel of less than 40 feet in length, a rowing boat, or a

Gear that gives you your money's worth . . .
Morrow builds it that way!



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seaplane on the water, shall not be obliged to give the signals described; but if she does not, she shall make some other efficient sound signals at intervals of not more than one minute.

1. Steam vessel under way—shall sound at intervals of not more than two minutes, a prolonged blast.

2. Steam vessel towing—at intervals of not more than one minute, three blasts in succession, one prolonged and two short blasts. The last vessel in tow, if manned, shall at intervals of not more than one minute, four blasts in succession; one prolonged and three short blasts, immediately after the towing vessel.

3. Anchored vessel less than 150 feet in length—at intervals of not more than one minute, ring the bell rapidly for about five seconds.

4. Danger signal—International rules do not provide for the use of the Danger Signal in restricted visibility.

This chapter would not be complete without Rule 27: Article 27. "General Prudential Rule." In obeying and construing these rules, due regard shall be had to all dangers of navigation and collision, and to any special circumstances, including the limitations of the craft involved, which may render a departure from the above Rules necessary in order to avoid immediate danger.

Permit me to bring this statement into focus. To avoid an immmediate peril, it may be permissible, and even necessary, to violate a requirement with due respect to the first twenty-six Rules and Articles.

AUTHOR'S NOTE: Capt. Irv apologizes for an error in his article of April 20, 1977, "Day Shapes and Night Lights." International—figure #3 indicates two black cones point-to-point for a trawling vessel. WRONG. There is no day shape for a trawling vessel. The two black cones are the designation for a fishing vessel. Should the fishing vessel be less than 65 ft. in length, a basket may be substituted, as in fig. #2. Trolling vessels are vessels not considered engaged in fishing and, therefore, do not have special day shapes or night lights.

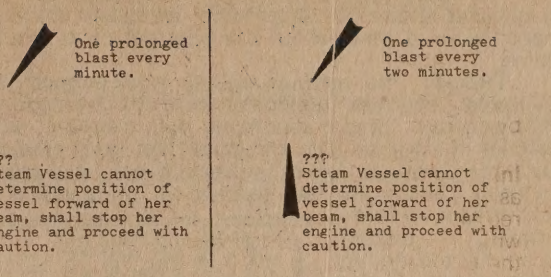
One prolonged blast every minute.
One prolonged blast every two minutes.
???
Steam Vessel cannot determine position of vessel forward of her beam, shall stop her engine and proceed with caution.
???
Steam Vessel cannot determine position of vessel forward of her beam, shall stop her engine and proceed with caution.

Fig. # 1 Inland Rules (Situation in restricted visibility)

Fig. # 1 International Rules

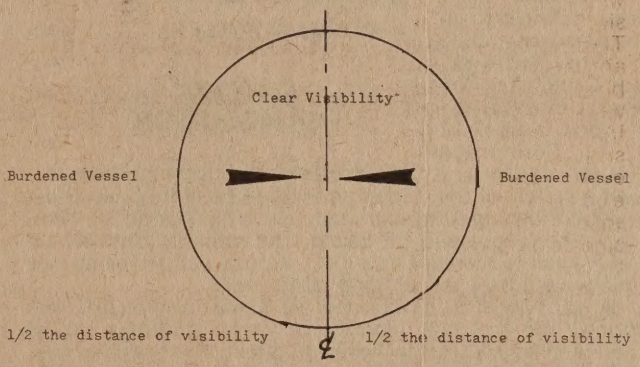

Fig. # 2 Inland and International restricted visibility

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ANOTHER FISHING SEASON

The glorious days of April have arrived and have brought with them, the beginning of another fishing season. The following information will set the stage for the 1977 freshwater season on Long Island, and allow the angler the opportunity to think about the possibilities in the days to come.

TROUT: The opening month was a good one. As expected, Long Island conditions were very favorable, and the fish receptive. Stream conditions were excellent, with early catches of trout on flies common. The more productive fly baits can be categorized as: streamers, wets, and occasionally nymphs. The warmer May weather will bring with it the first significant hatches, offering exciting sport for the dry fly enthusiasts. Aside from the dark patterns associated with the coastal "Blasturus" aquatic, early season patterns to be considered are: Quill Gordon, Adams, Dark Cahill. Try the patterns in the smaller hook sizes—12 and 14. During the summer season, I found a variety of the midge patterns to be quite productive.

If spin-fishing suits your fancy, use single blade spinners, such as the Mepps and CP Swing. The spinning baits should be of a small to medium size (0-1). Also, wobble-type spoons annually take their toll of Long Island trout.

A word about trout stocking. Al Kellar, of the DEC, has informed me that the incremental trout stockings, to be undertaken subsequent to April 1st, are currently under way. Al expressed optimism concerning the fact that many of the rainbow trout caught on opening day were carry-over fish from last year's crop. The fish also experience considerable growth rates. If you recall, a previous article in The Long Island Fisherman detailed the changes in the 1977 stocking program which would allow greater numbers of rainbows to be planted in Long Island waters. The positive capture results associated with the carry-over rainbows appear to support the rationale for changing from a predominantly brook trout crop to one of rainbows. As an example of this, Al cited the opening day results monitored at East Lake in Patchogue. According to Al, carry-over rainbows were taken in the 12-16 inch category, while carry-over browns measured 13-18 inches. Incidentally, some very nice trout were taken at the Hard's Lake dam on opening day; the rainbow trout were up to 16 inches, and there was a superb brown trout of five pounds plus.

PICKEREL: The season for pickerel begins on May 1st, and extends to February 28th or 29th (depending on Leap Year). The season is closed during the months of March and April, in order to allow for the best possible spawn. The Island has its share of good pickerel fishing, and excellent lunker sized fish are taken annually; fish in the five-seven pound category might not be too common, but are nonetheless caught from Long Island waters. A fishing buddy of mine had the fortunate opportunity to catch a Long Island pickerel that measured 29-1/2 inches in length, and tipped the scales at 6-1/4 pounds. That is a mighty fine fish anywhere.

Pickerel, by nature, congregate primarily in weed and grass beds, though they do relate to deep-water structure during the hot summer months. The chain pickerel can be caught using a variety of artificial lures, as well as bait; spinners, spinner-baits, crank baits, and spoons, all work exceptionally well. Due to a pickerel's positioning as it lies in ambush, it is usually more productive to cast parallel to the weed or grass bed. These holding areas offer a hide-out from which the pickerel darts to snare unsuspecting prey or, hopefully, the angler's lure. Many of the Island's freshwater bodies hold good populations of pickerel, with the Peconic River system currently considered the choice location. Lakes such as Ronkonkoma, Wildwood, and the soon-to-be opened Hempstead (see section to follow), also offer excellent pickerel angling.

BASS: June 1st will mark the beginning of the freshwater bass season on Long Island. Both the largemouth and smallmouth basses can be found in numbers significant enough to offer excellent angling. Both species of bass maintain a fairly strong foothold within the Island's lakes and ponds, and attain respectable proportions. For example, largemouth bass have been caught that are in the 8-10 pound category. Though more the exception than the rule, these fish are an indication of the growth potential of Long Island bass. Whenever trophy bass become the topic of discussion, it is only natural that "fish stories" arise. One unconfirmed tale details the capture of a 14 pound behemoth from Long Island's Peconic River. The validity of the claim can be easily disputed by skeptics. But, who knows? It is certainly food for thought, and make the prospects of Long Island bass fishing quite interesting.

The smallmouth is not as abundant as his big-mouthed relative, nor does it occupy each and every body of water. As a matter of fact, the major populations of smallmouth are principally isolated to two bodies of water: Montauk's Fort Pond and Shelter Island's Fresh Pond. In both of these locations, the smallmouth thrives, and fish have been taken of five and six pounds.

Trophy bass aside, the average size of a Long Island largemouth is somewhere in the neighborhood of 1-1/2 pounds, with the smallmouth slightly less. The average size of bass from individual lake populations, varies considerably. Many of the more fertile lakes, and those that have tidal connections, tend to produce bass with higher average weights. One particular body of water, which incidentally has a saltwater outlet, continually produces two-three pound fish, and has a high catch rate for bass of four-five pounds. For the most part, you can expect to encounter a crop of ten-twelve inch, pound-and-a-half bass. Bear in mind, though, that almost every piece of water can and will, produce lunker bass. Even the smallest of bass ponds have pretty good track records with big fish.

Long Island's fishable freshwater amounts to approximately 5,600 acres, with most of the water averaging under 100 acres. The following data on popular Long Island warm-water lakes and ponds will prove useful should you decide to give the Island's bassin' a try.

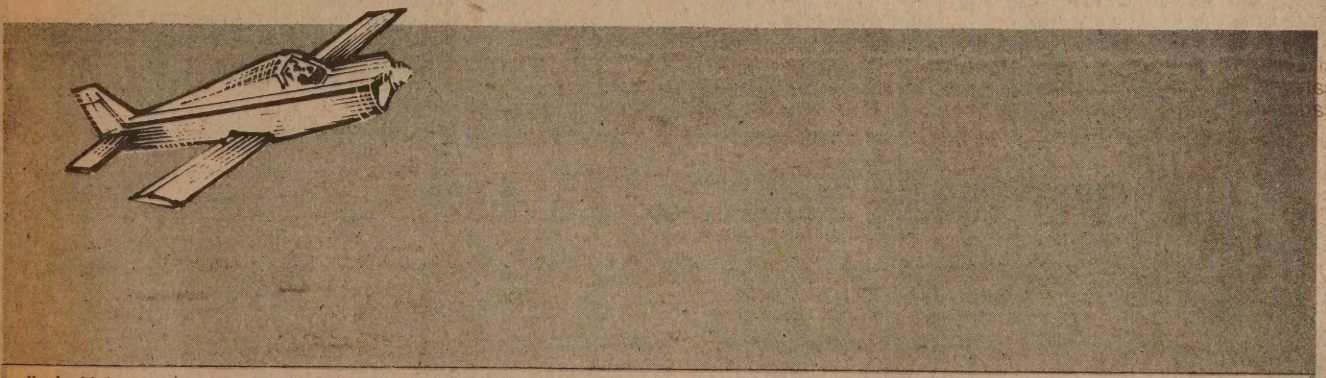
BODY OF WATER	LOCATION	BASS SPECIE PRESENT
New Mill Pond	Smithtown	Largemouth
Belmont Lake	Belmont Lake State Pk.	Largemouth
Southards Pond	North Babylon	Largemouth
Lake Ronkonkoma	Ronkonkoma	Largemouth
Lace Mill Pond	Patchogue	Largemouth
Hard's Lake	Southaven Park	Largemouth
Lower Lake	Yaphank	Largemouth
Upper Lake	Yaphank	Largemouth
Kahlers Pond	Moriches	Largemouth
Forge Pond	Calverton	Largemouth
Upper Mill Pond	Oyster Bay	Largemouth
Wildwood Lake	Riverhead	Largemouth
Laurel Lake	Laurel	Largemouth
Big Fresh Pond	North Sea	Largemouth
Water Mill Pond	Water Mill	Largemouth
Kellis Pond	Bridgehampton	Largemouth
Fresh Pond	Hither Hills State Pk.	Largemouth
Fresh Pond	Shelter Island	Smallmouth
Fort Pond	Montauk	Largemouth & Smallmouth
Big Reed Pond	Montauk	Largemouth

FISHING GUIDE: The freshwaters of Long Island hold quite diverse populations of fish. Though much attention is paid to the significant bass and trout crops on the Island, excellent fishing for respectable panfish can be readily had. The chart which follows list locations and native fish.

BODY OF WATER	LOCATION	TYPE OF FISH PRESENT
New Mill Pond	Smithtown	BG, LB, PS,YP,BB
Belmont Lake	Belmont State Park	LB,CP,BG,PS,YP,BB
Southards Pond	West of Deer Pk Ave	LB,CP,BG,PS,YP,BB
Lake Ronkonkoma	Ronkonkoma	LB,CP,PS,YP,BB,RB
Lace Mill Pond	Patchogue	LB,PS,YP,BB,BC
Hard's Lake	Southaven Park	ST,BT,RT,LB,BG,PS,YP,BB
Lower Lake	Yaphank	ST,LB,YP,BB
Upper Lake	Yaphank	ST,LB,YP,BB
Kahlers Pond	Moriches	ST,BT,LB,PS,YP,BB
Forge Pond	Calverton	LB,CP,BG,PS,YP,WP,BB,BC
Upper Mill Pond	East of Forge Pond	LB,CP,BG,PS,YP,WP,BB,BC
Wildwood Lake	Riverhead	BT,RT,LB,CP,BG,PS,YP,WP,BB,RB
Laurel Lake	Laurel	BT,SB,LB,CP,PS,YP,WP,BB
Big Fresh Pond	North Sea	LB,CP,BG,PS,YP,WP,BB
Water Mill Pond	Water Mill	LB,CP,PS,YP,WP,BB
Kellis Pond	Bridgehampton	LB,CP,PS,YP,WP,BB
Fresh Pond	Hither Hills	LB,YP
Fort Pond	Montauk	LB,SB,YP,WP
Carlls River	Babylon	BT,ST
Carmans River	Southhaven Park	BT,ST,RT
Champlins Creek	Islip	ST
Nissequogue River	Smithtown	ST,BT
Orowoc Creek	Islip	ST
Swan River	Patchogue	ST
Avon Manor Pond	Amityville	ST
Freeport Reservoir	Freeport	ST
Massapequa Reser.	Massapequa	ST,RT

KEY

Brook Trout (Speckled) - ST
Brown Trout - BT
Rainbow Trout - RT
Chain Pickerel - CP
Bluegill - BG
Black Crappie - BC
White Perch WP
Brown Bullhead - BB
Rock Bass - RB
Smallmouth Bass - SB
Largemouth Bass - LB
Pumpkinseed - PS
Yellow Perch - YP



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Other Observations On ★ DIAMOND JIGGING ★

by Capt. John De Maio

An entire season has come and gone since my last writings. After observing and fishing side by side with many a chartered party, I have become more aware of the particular problems confronting the angler when using the diamond jig. Trying to use, I might add. Most people find it difficult. Some, easy. There are those who find it impossible.

I am sure any of the people that have fished with me would agree that the first trip is prep school. Following trips usually can prove more productive, due to the fisherman's awareness and past experience. Even with the former experience, some people still have difficulty. This really brings us to what fishing is all about. A personal individual skill. Exposure alone is not enough.

The skill is born in you. The angler develops this skill in his own individual manner. Hence, style. Years of experimenting, usually by trial and error, are necessary before the confidence in your ability, (personal skill), is obtained. Once you have arrived you are on your way to gratifying achievements.

I have seen it in the expression of those people that have fished with me. That glow of satisfaction in their faces when I stick the gaff into a large bass and drop it on the deck with a heavy thud. A bass that was hooked unaided after the angler has applied himself diligently, or simply, worked hard for it. Like anything else in life, the things we obtain thru hard work and sacrifice, are the things we take most pride in. A personal satisfaction.

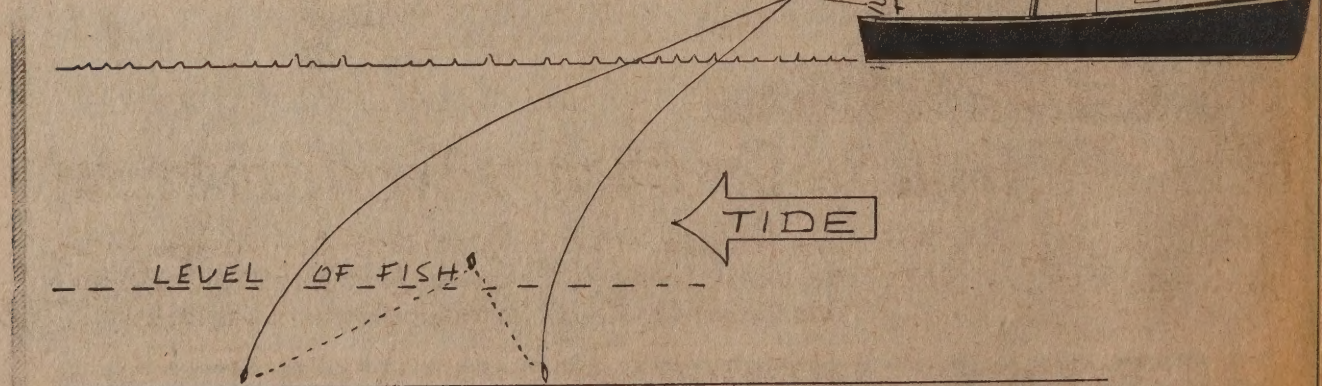
But the problems of hooking a bass on a diamond jig are not merely solved by hard work. This is the rub. Watching someone fishing his heart out and being unable to get a bite, when the fish are taking hold, is a frustration to both the angler and to myself. It almost seems unfair. Why, out of a three-man party, will one man catch 75 percent of the fish, another the remaining 25, and the third hooker zip? Often it is the angler's inability to work his tackle properly. Still, it can be more. The answer goes back to my former writings. That certain "feel." Without the "feel" for it you are only wetting a line. Number one in the problem department is the use of tackle. At least 60 percent of the people who fished with me could not drop the jig to the bottom without getting a backlash. This would result in the angler constantly wasting time removing the backlash and not fishing. I blame the damn spinning rod and reel for this. Although many anglers have had years of experience fishing, it has been with a spinning outfit. When confronted with a conventional rod and reel, they are at a loss. Like learning to drive on an automatic and then being handed a 5 forward speed standard shift. Disaster! Having read any of last year's writings you know my attitude regarding spinning tackle. It is not amongst my bag of tricks.

Proper use of the conventional reel has been covered in another article, so I will only write on the finesse needed for success when using the jig. Or, as earlier stated, the "feel." Methods come into play when using the jig. Each method requires the experience to master it. My favorite is the "stemming the tide" method. Or, slow trolling the diamond jig. To go further I could take a page from Scott Simons book and call the method "right angle squidding," but I will not. This style of working a jig is the hardest for the angler to master. It is also indigenous to Montauk. So I will speak of this style only.

To begin with we must consider the boat is being operated correctly and the fish are there. All we have to concern ourselves with is presenting the jig to the fish. This must be done in a manner that will trick the bass, blue or whatever, into thinking it is a baitfish. A baitfish he can catch (striped bass are lazy, or just slower, and will take a slow moving lure more readily than a bluefish.) Keep the lure active. Don't let the fish get too long a look at it. Only in fast moving tides will a slow moving lure be effective. That includes diamond jigging, trolling and casting. This is what makes stemming the tide a natural. When the tide is horsing by, the boat would fish best at its slowest rpm. At the slack water, the boat could be brought up to a trolling speed to add the needed action to the lure. You must understand what the tide is doing to your lure. Proper operation of the boat is a must. This can only come with the experience of handling the same boat.

I say the same because every boat has its own personality.

Whenever possible face into your line. Do not extend your rod out to the side. This will inhibit your ability to feel the jig. As you allow the jig to sink rapidly to the bottom, you should be in line with your fishing line. The rod should be pointing at the line giving you the



This diagram is merely to give you a visual idea of what happens to the jig when stemming the tide. What I have drawn here is only an educated guess. Having never personally observed the lure action from underwater. Take note of the belly in the line created by the tide flow. Here again is a lure action taken place. One beyond your control. The smart angler is aware of this and considers it in the course of fishing. An example would be such. A long full swing on the rod when trying to hook the fish. This would help eliminate the belly slack and set the hook in deep. Fish your rod low and in line as I have suggested earlier in this article and you will be in the best position for the full swing.

straightest line possible from diamond jig up to the reel. (The same trick is used by porgy fishermen to best feel out the small bites in a strong tide.) Now is the most crucial moment for the correct lure performance. You must feel or see the jig bounce the bottom! At the **instant** the lure bounces, the drag should be engaged to stop the line from going out any further. **The diamond jig must bounce smartly!** A clean bounce off the bottom is very important. If the jig is allowed to drag along the bottom it will turn off the fish. I am not sure what happens that will cause the fish to lose interest, but they do. I can prove this. At Montauk the bottom is rough in most areas fished. Many times the jig will hang the bottom, if only for a second. I have **never** had a fish bite after hanging the bottom, even when the fish were leaping over the rail.

Knowing when the jig bounces is the whole trick. What you do after that matters very little. Sometimes it is best not to do anything. Just by doing nothing, in this case, you are fishing. Because of the boat's movement into the tide the lure will raise on its own. Lure weight, line diameter, and tide conditions will determine how rapidly the line will rise up towards the surface. Careful selection of the diamond jig is also important. Diamond jig size is relative to the bait the fish are eating, not the strength of the tide. Never use a big jig only because the tide is so strong that you're having troubles feeling out the bottom. A 3 ounce jig will more often out-fish the heavy jigs regardless of tide strength. So will the lighter mono lines. 20 pound test and even 15 will get more bites than 30. Not only more bites, but bigger fish. That's a fact, proven over years of experience.

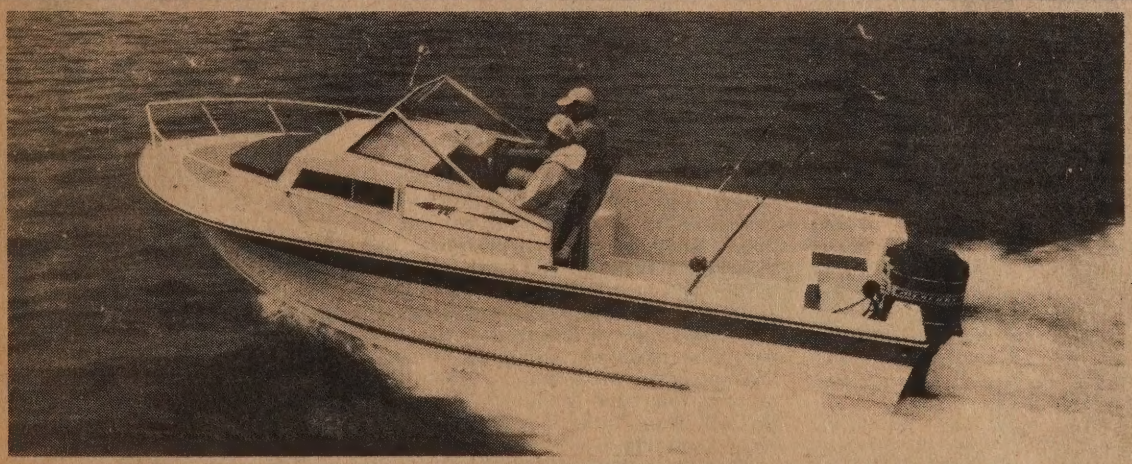
Okay! Now that the hunk of metal has slammed against the bottom, and you knew it, and engaged the drag, (a minor miracle for some people), what the hell do you do now? Making a slow turn on the handle is one method. If you require numbers, let us say about 3 turns on the handle for about 6 seconds. Then throw the reel into free spool and allow the jig to fall back once again to the bottom until you get the second bounce. Once again engage the drag and slowly turn the handle. I only bounce it twice at Montauk, so the second bounce would be the final. On the last bounce let the lure hang back there longer than the first. Because of the line angle the lure will not ride up as rapidly on the last bounce, so a 10 second wait before retrieving would be best here. Time limits vary with tide conditions, boat traffic, and what level the fish are feeding at. The jig will work better closer to the bottom where there is less sun-light and generally more fish activity. How many times you bounce the lure can vary. At Montauk I say twice because of the strong tides. I do often bounce 3 and even 4 times. If you get a hit and miss the fish you should definitely go back for another bounce, regardless of how many times. But word of caution—you begin to lose control as the line gets further away from the boat.

Slowly turning the handle is only one approach. Another favorite is to turn the handle at a moderate pace for about 5 turns and then hesitate for 4 or 5 seconds. Then repeat the bounce again. Variations are many and often effective on a given day. All the cute tricks are useless unless you first bounce the bottom smartly. Accomplish this and you have it made! **Feeling the bottom is basic.** From this point on we can go into the finesse.

Like all fishermen, I have theories and I have one on why the bounce is so important. I believe the lure passes thru the fish as it sinks. After it bounces and begins to rise, they hit. As the lure sinks past the fish, several fish must follow it down to the bottom. So you see, the jig must make a clean bounce or it will shy the fish. Bass hardly ever hit the lure sinking when stemming the tide. So make sure your lure bounces smartly.

Alright now! You had the bounce and nothing happens. So what are you doing wrong? Chances are you're not doing anything wrong. **You are not doing enough!** This comes from a lack of experience. Also, not allowing the line to pass through your fingers and being unable to feel it out. You must feel out the **Weight** at the **end** of your **line.** The **weight drag** on the end of the line varies with the changing surface conditions. Such as wind gusts, boat position, and

(Continued on page 53.)



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North Shore Blackfish

by Capt. Ron Onorato

While many of the more popular game fish on Long Island, such as the bass, bluefish, and weakfish, continue to decline in numbers for various reasons, the blackfish seems to be as plentiful as ever. This underrated fish is one of the few fish that seem to be thriving quite well in Long Island waters. Last year with the weakfish and bass erratic at best, many anglers switched over to the blacks, and found them a satisfying substitute. The fish were fairly numerous, and attained pretty decent size, and more importantly, were superb table fare. If the other game fish on Long Island continue in their population decline, there will be more and more reliance on the blackfish as a replacement.

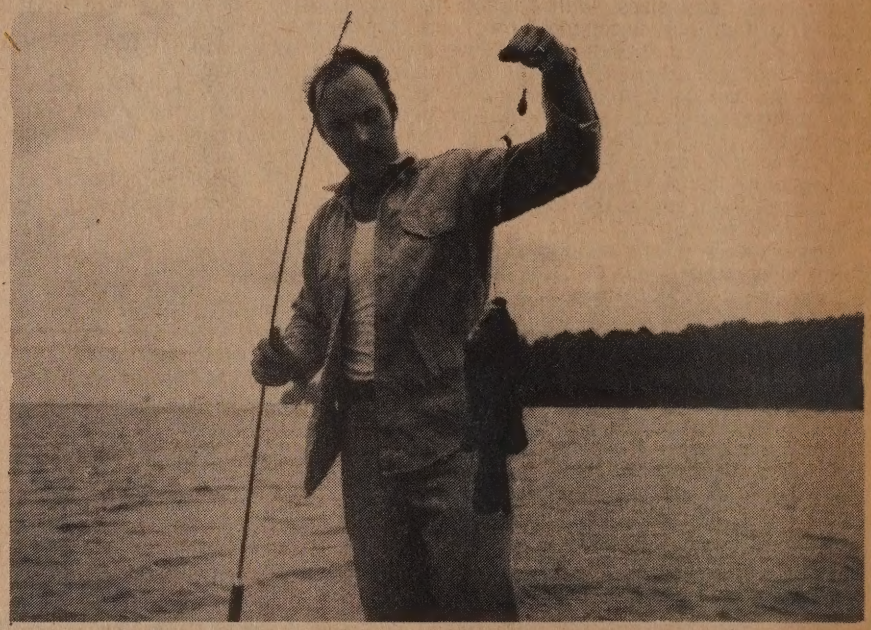
Many veteran bass fishermen, as well as the offshore sharpshooters, will look down at the black-fisherman. Little do they realize that the successful black-fisherman is a specialist in a very exacting field. There is not much reliance on luck or chance by the expert black-fisherman, but an intimate knowledge of the quarry he seeks.

The blackfish is basically a bottom dwelling fish, that rarely feeds more than a foot or so off the bottom. He prefers moderately cool water temperatures, and can be found in water as shallow as five feet, and as deep as 90 or 100 feet.

The blackfish (or tautog, as he is known in more northerly waters) is very selective in the type of bottom he will feed in. He has evolved with a very strong jaw, and quite extensive set of crunching teeth vaguely resembling human teeth. These teeth are used almost strictly for crunching such things as crabs, clams, and mussels, and are not used for biting or tearing. For this reason, the black will seek a bottom that is rich with this type of forage.

Crabs, clams, mussel, and barnacles, comprise much of the diet of the black. Those big, strong teeth make short work of any hard-shelled animals, including barnacles. With this information, the black-fisherman will look for the fish in an area that has this type of forage.

Almost any rocky area, mussel bed, wreck or reef that is fairly clean will hold blackfish in season. For those of you close to Long Island Sound, there is perhaps one of the largest feeding grounds for the blackfish on the East Coast. Unlike the South Shore, where the bottom is relatively smooth sand with occasional wrecks and artificial reefs around, the Sound is almost entirely rocky in nature, with many natural reefs and shoals. Any one of the points running from Manhasset Bay all the way East to Orient Point, will hold blackfish in varying numbers.



R. Bennett shows average size black taken on spinning tackle.

If all these points hold blackfish, you may ask yourself, "What is so difficult about blackfishing?" While it is true that most of these points contain fish, much of the area is totally void of any fish at all. For reasons known only to the black, he will select just one portion of a reef or rocky area, and will not stray far from it. There could be an area of rocks that looks the same to us, but only one small portion will hold fish. This is the secret to successful blackfishing; locating the productive bottom formations that hold fish. The blackfish specialist, through trial and error, will gradually learn those grounds that have produced in the past and will spend little, if any, time on the empty grounds.

The use of shore ranges is one of the first things that you should use for finding certain areas. Ranges have been discussed thoroughly in past articles, so they will be touched upon only lightly. Fortunately, most of the North Shore blackfish grounds are quite close to shore; most of them within a mile, and many closer than that, so the range of visibility need not be that extensive. In fact, many of the best grounds around Cold Spring Harobr and Oyster Bay are within a couple of hundred yards from the beach. When fishing this close to the beach areas, a single range is all that is needed. For example, you could line up a certain rock with a tree or a house, and that would give you your main reference point. Now you have to move either inshore or offshore, staying on that same range. This may mean several drops of the anchor, but must be done until the boat is positioned properly. There were times when as many as six or seven drops of the anchor were necessary before the boat was sitting in the right spot. If the tide or the wind carried the boat off the range, it would be no good. Once the boat was anchored properly, the fish came. If the piece of ground that you're fishing is located a bit off the beach, then you should try to get an offshore range, in addition to your main reference point.

The best way to learn some new blackfish grounds is by trial and error, or by watching other boats. Center Island Reef, off Bayville, is one of the finest blackfish grounds on the North Shore. The reef itself is quite large, but there are only a few pieces of it that are productive. I found out by just moving the boat frequently until action came. The good spots were mentally noted for future use. Sometimes this is the only way to go.

There are times when the party boats will be working the area, and this will make your work that much easier. Note the area they are working, and after they leave, try it. More often than not, they will have taken most of the fish from the spot, but don't forget to try it another time. One thing that usually holds true is that a spot that has produced in the past, will almost always produce at a future time, provided the bottom hasn't been disturbed.

Blackfish will feed at all stages of the tide, except slack water. If you're out looking for new grounds, don't linger at any one spot too long. If after ten minutes or so without a hit, move off. The fish are either there, or they are not; they don't usually just move into an area like other species.

Locating the fish is about the most difficult aspect of blackfishing; catching them is much easier. Blackfish will run to some hefty sizes, with 10 and 12 pound fish not uncommon on Long Island. Most fish, however, are between two and five pounds in weight. The fish is an exceptionally strong one, and offers a tremendous fight on reasonably light tackle.

Most old-time black-fishermen are of the conviction that you need heavy tackle to horse the blacks away from the rocks. While it is true that blacks, especially the bigger ones will try to run into the rocks or around some obstruction, the need for such heavy tackle is really not necessary. Medium-light spinning tackle can be used in most areas where the tide is light, and the need for heavy sinkers isn't necessary. In many North Shore grounds, only one or two ounces of lead is necessary to hold bottom.

The important thing here is to have good quality mono line. I have regularly used ten pound test monofilament, with few break-offs caused by the fish running into the rocks. Every time the line gets a nick or a cut from the foul bottom, a two-foot length is cut off, and the hooks retied. If you do this religiously, you should have little trouble with break-offs.

While many like spinning gear, you can go to conventional tackle, if that is preferred. Try to keep the rig on the light side, and stay away from the codfish sticks.

Terminal tackle is really quite simple. Keep in mind, however, that you're going to be fishing in an area that is full of snags, and no matter what you do, you're going to lose rigs; so be prepared with plenty of hooks and sinkers. The most popular hook used is the Virginia-style hook, in sizes from #8 all the way to the big #2, with size #5 or #6 being the most popular. You can also use the small size Sproat Hooks, or O'Shaugnessey hooks, with good results as long as you keep the hook on the small side. The blackfish has a fairly small size mouth, and you don't want to choke him with an oversize hook.

Usually two hooks are tied together, with the leader of one being tied about the middle of the leader of the other hook. If you find that you are donating too many hooks to the bottom, then you can skip the two-hook rig, and stay with a single hook.

The hook or hooks are then attached to either a straight swivel with a snap, or just a snap. The sinker is then added to the snap, using whatever weight is necessary to hold bottom.

As mentioned previously, the major portion of the blacks' diet consists of shellfish of varying kinds. With this in mind, the best baits to use are some sort of crab or clam bait. The two most widely

(Continued on next page.)

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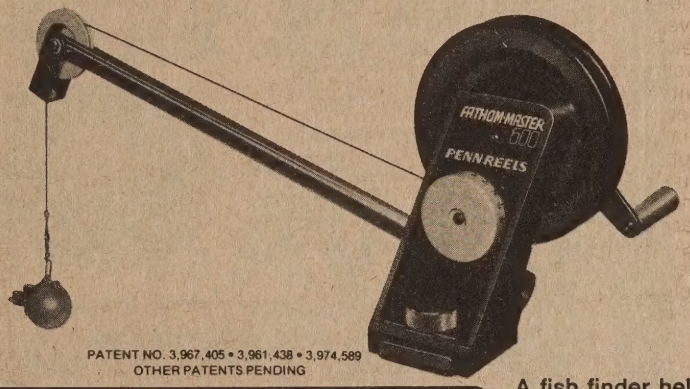

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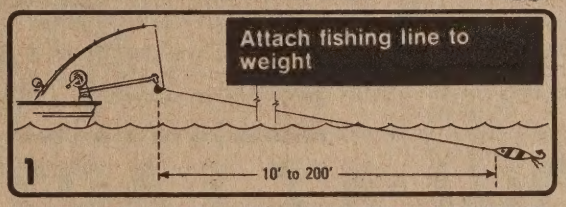

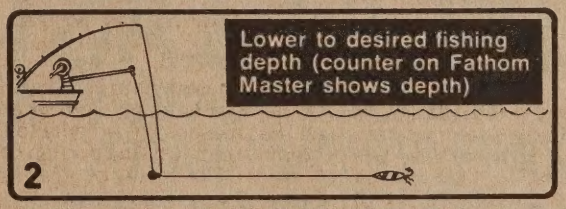

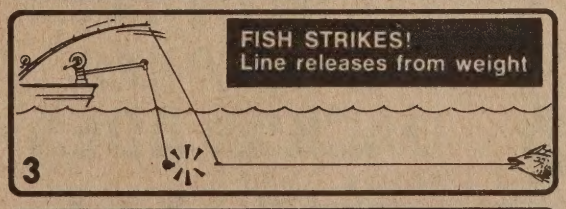

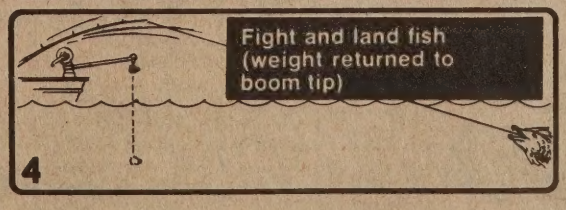

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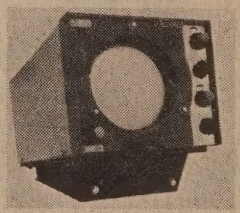

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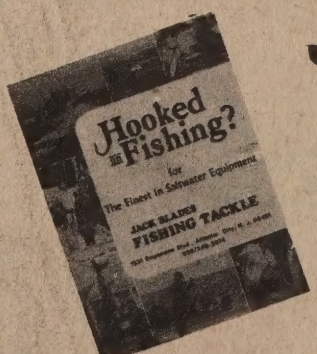

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(Continued from previous page.)

used baits are the fiddler crab, and the green crab. These baits are popular for two reasons: both are natural forage for the black, and both tend to discourage the ravaging onslaughts of the bergalls. The bergalls are a relative of the black, but are much more numerous, and don't grow to the size of the black. They are usually found in the same areas as the black and will ravage any sort of soft bait that is presented to them.

Fiddler crabs are usually put on one hook, with the large claw removed, and the hook inserted through the back and out through the front, so that just the tip of the barb is exposed. The green crab is usually cut in half, or quarters if it is a large one, with the back removed as well as the legs. The hook is then inserted through one of the leg sockets, and buried in the body somewhere. The green crab is usually more effective for bigger fish than the fiddler.

Other baits that can be used are fresh skimmer clam, but this is only good when there are few bergalls around. Another fine bait that is very infrequently used, mainly because of the difficulty in obtaining it, are tiny steamer clams. These clams are about an inch in size, and can be found on some of the North Shore mud flats. The clam is crushed, and the whole thing goes onto the hook. This is a superior bait to use, and certainly worth the effort to obtain it.

Blackfish take the bait in a vigorous manner. They will usually pick the bait up and then crunch it with their teeth. What this feels like is a peck, and then a bite. Always wait for the bite before trying to set the hook so the fish will have time to get the bait into its mouth. Sometimes the black won't peck, and will just bite. Either way, you have to restrain yourself for a moment before setting the hook.

Blacks, even the smaller ones, put up a spirited battle. They will usually head right for the bottom or for some rock. If a big fish makes it to the rocks, he will either break your line, or if there are two hooks, snag the other hook into the rock. In most cases, the fish earns his freedom—as he deserves.

The smaller blacks can be bounced on board, but a landing net should be kept handy if any bigger specimens come along. Fish less than a pound should be released, as there is little but bones on them.

With the fairly mild springs we have been experiencing, the fish have been showing up earlier each year. Last year, there was good fishing during the first week of May, and it lasted through most of June. With the coming of the warm summer months, the blacks move out to the deeper, and cooler waters.

The black is a very fine eating fish, as many newcomers have found out. The meat is firm and flakey white, similar a bit to the codfish. However, the fish has an extremely tough skin, and it must be removed before cooking. Once this is done, some fine eating is in store.

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Tilefish Bonanzas on the Speedy VI

by Scott J. Simons

Captain Speedy Hubert of the open boat **Speedy VI** has been having some fantastic offshore trips for giant tilefish, as the photos on these pages can attest to. The first offshore trip to the Hudson Canyon was made under ideal conditions in April, and the 50 anglers aboard boated over 400 giant tilefish. The majority of the fish were in the 12 to 20 pound class, but there was also many in the 30 pound range, and quite a few in the 40s, as can be seen in the cover photo. The $210 pool was taken by Joe Parmigiani of Lindenhurst, who caught a whooping tile of 52 pounds. The fishing was so fast and furious that four gaffs were kept busy constantly and the mates never stopped until the three toots on the horn.

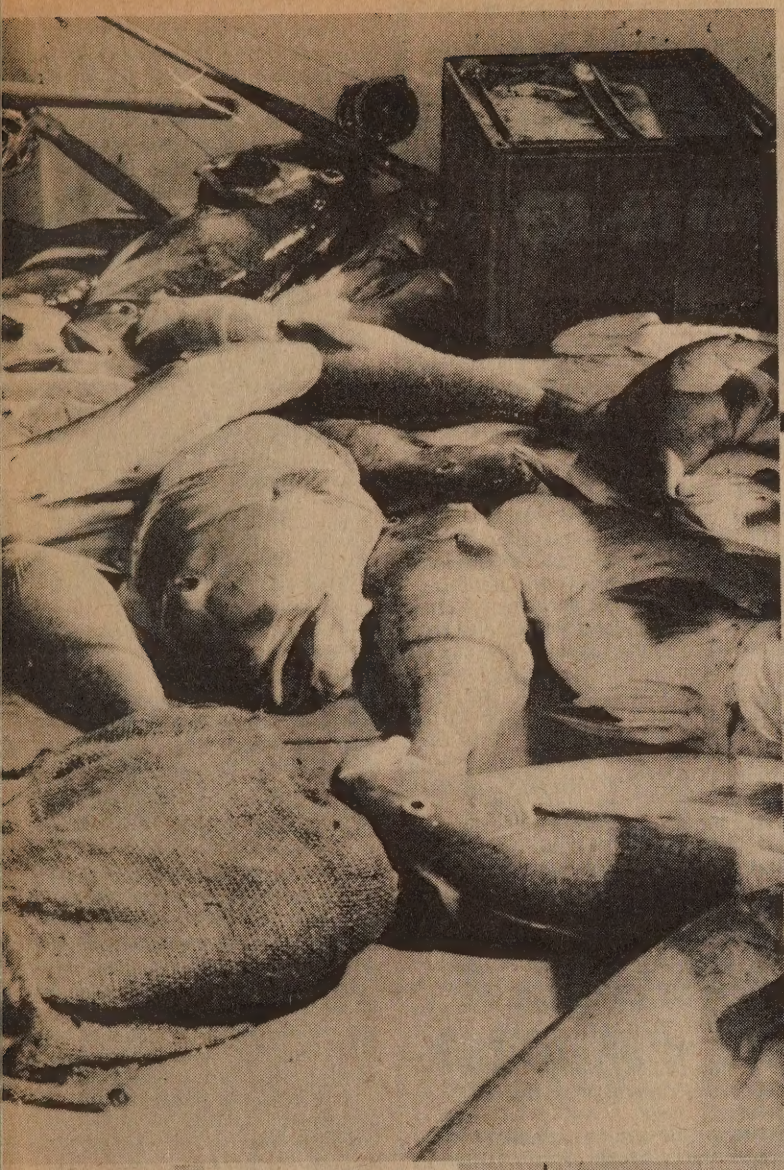
This first trip was so successful that a second trip was made on May 1st, which resulted in another great catch of over 300 tilefish. The pool was astronomical, too—$606!!! A third trip is scheduled to leave Sunday night, May 15th; but the word has obviously gotten around, and it is already booked up solid. But there is a fourth trip scheduled to sail that still has a few openings; so it's not too late. The fourth trip will leave on Monday night (Memorial Day), with fishing on Tuesday and back to the dock that evening.

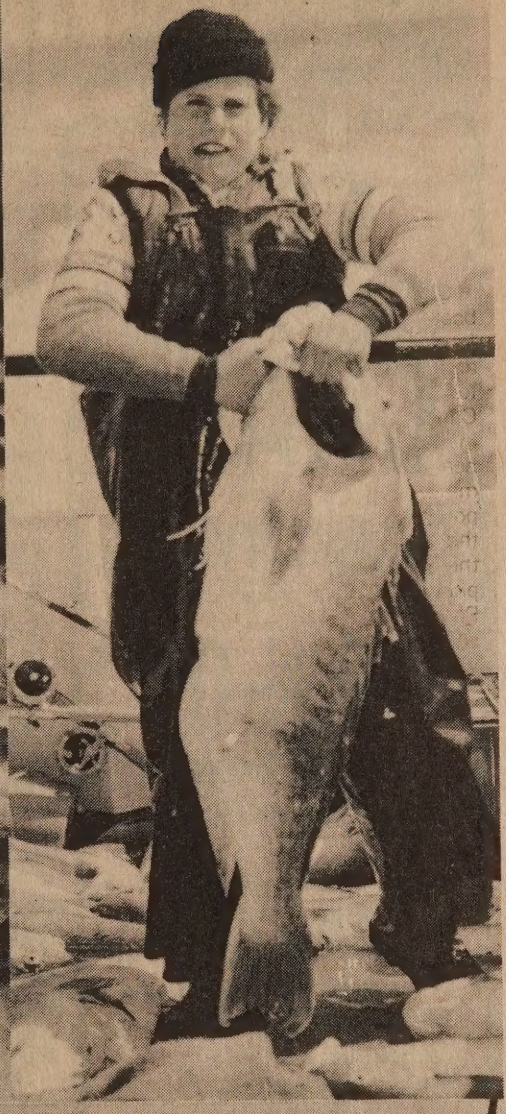
The ride to the Hudson Canyon tilefishing grounds is only a six-hour haul for the speedy new Speedy VI, and anglers can expect a good five hours fishing if their arms can hold up that long. These tilefishing trips are strictly limited to 50 passengers so that everyone has plenty of fishing room, and extra mates are carried to help with the gaffing duties. The fare is $45, and you can rent a heavy duty rod and reel outfit for an additional $5. A deposit is required, so give Captain Speedy a call at 516-661-1652, for further details.

The Captain said that many of the anglers have been loading 4/0 reels with 50 pound test Ande monofilament line and haven't been having any noticeable problems with it. For weight, anglers have either been taping two 16 or 20 ounce sinkers together, or using old sashweights. Some anglers go so far as to use electric fishing reels powered by 12-volt car batteries, but this may be a case of overkill.

But no matter how you catch them, tilefish are considered by many to be a delicacy comparable in flavor and texture to lobster or crab meat. In any case, a tilefishing trip is one way t up your freezer with fish—how mar pound fish can YOUR freezer hold?

Mate Kenny Higgins hefts two tilefish in the 40 pound class.





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SOUTH SHORE Fishing Report

MONTAUK

At the present time Montauk is experiencing some of the most fantastic fishing that any fisherman will ever experience in a lifetime. Cod and giant pollack in the 20 lb. range are virtually committing suicide on diamond jigs and tubes in the entire area south of Block Island and fishermen are catching as many fish as their arms can hold up under. The staff of The Fisherman got in on some of this action Wednesday, and believe it when we tell you that there is no words that can exaggerate how fantastic this spring run of cod and pollack really is. The fish are feeding on giant sandeels, which account for their preference for the diamond jig and tube rig over bait. To give you an idea of how large the body of fish is, we took over a thousand pounds-gutted of cod and pollack and on the way in passed the boat of our sister publication, The New England Fisherman. They were fishing a good three miles from the area we were and they took 56 cod and pollack with only two anglers aboard. That's fishing! Unfortunately, after the last few dismal spring runs of cod many of the charter-boats have been forced to sit at the dock for lack of fishermen. But the fishing should hold up for the next week or two until the striped bass arrive, so there's still time to get in on this fishing of a lifetime and we urge everyone who can possibly make it to give it a try. Try to bring your own jigs if possible—the demand has outstripped the supply at Montauk, and many jigs are being lost to big fish.

"Fantastic, fantastic, fantastic! We've had high-hooks of 25 fish!" Captain Richard Rade of the **Marlin IV** was almost at a loss for words, and said that the average angler has been taking a good 10 or 12 fish with many others taking more. The fish are huge, with the pool taken by fish over 40 pounds daily. Friday's pool was taken with a monstrous 38½ pound pollack. A 47 lb. cod took it on Sunday. Richie said that the fishing has been so hectic for the last two weeks with the special diamond jig and tube rig that there is now a shortage of diamond jigs in Montauk and he urged anglers that come out to try and bring their own supply. Eight ounce Ava's or Bridgeports, and you can take a 5 inch tube off an umbrella rig, preferably red. The captain noted that there is also an abundance of mackerel, jumbo whiting and even a few blackfish in the same area, so the fish are having a real ball with all the baitfish in the area.

"Real blitz type fishing of the finest kind," was the word from Captain Paul Sundberg of the charterboat **Montauk.** Vast schools of giant cod and pollack have moved into a large area south of Block Island and the local charter and

Frank Albanesi from E. Patchogue with a 59 lb. cod he boated aboard the Viking Star.

open boats have been cleaning up on them for two weeks now and there's no end in sight. On Saturday, Santo Cunnuvo and a party from Staten Island did a real number on the fish from Montauk using Ava diamond jigs with a teaser tube tied into a dropper loop about three foot above. They boated 70 codfish up to 35 pounds and 30 pollack. To show the quality of the pollack, the smallest fish taken was 15 pounds and the average size was in the mid-twenties with an occasional 30 thrown in for good luck. The captain said that the mate counted over 30 cod and pollack that surpassed the 30 lb. mark. Paul also noted that there is an abundance of huge whiting around for those that want to add something else to their bags, but usually a couple of hours with the arm-breaking cod and pollack is enough for most anglers.

Captain Fritz Hubner of the charter-boat **Mistress Too** confirmed that the boats have been literally murdering the cod and pollack in the area south of Block Island, although he hasn't sailed in awhile. The six-man charterboats are taking anywhere between 60 and 85 cod and pollack on each trip, and the fish are all tackle busters—pollack in the 20 to 30 lb. class and cod mostly 20 to 35 pounds. The hot rig is the diamond jig with a small surgical tube three foot above, which is accounting for many double headers. Fritzy noted that a couple of the guys have even been using TWO tubes with the jig and occasionally score with a triple-header. There just doesn't seem to be any end to the fish, which are in a large area that allows everyone to drift and bail fish without interference from competing boats. The captain said that this is undoubtably the best spring run of cod and pollack that Montauk has seen in many years, bringing back memories of the "old days". The **Mistress Too** is available for charters for any anglers that want to get in on this hot fishing, which will in all liklihood be tomorrow's

"old days."

The charterboat **Sportfisher,** which is captained by George McTurck, has also been cleaning up on the cod and pollack blitz and loaded up on the boat on Sunday's charter fishing 6 miles south of Block Island. The place is alive with sand eels and macks and whiting are also in the area. We didn't get to talk to the Captain on Sunday night when we called because he wasn't home—he took the missus to dinner for Mother's Day, but called back later.

"Unlimited fish to catch, all the bags and fish box are filled and we're still knee-deep in cod and pollack in the cockpit!" Captain Dick Vigilant's son, known as "Mitey Mouse" and mates on the **Triton II** couldn't say enough about the fantastic fishing. Anglers aboard on both Friday and Saturday caught all the giant cod and pollack they wanted until their arms gave out, taking many double-headers with a combined weight of between 40 and 50 pounds. Very few fish are being taken on bait, which can be difficult to get some anglers to understand at times. The dynamite rig is a diamond jig with the tube three to four feet above. For some reason, probably because the fish are feeding on giant sandeels 8 to 10 inches long, about 75 percent of the cod and pollack are taking the tube. No jigging either, so you can save all of your energy for winching in fish. Just lower the rig to the bottom, make 5 or 6 SLOW turns of the reel handle and a big cod or pollack will pounce on it.

"Forget about bait—Ava diamond jigs and a tube is the only way to go!" Captain Freddie Bird of the **Flying Cloud** said that the phenomenal cod and pollack fishing off Block Island is something you have to see to believe. Pollack up to 35 pounds & AVERAGING over 20, cod all sizes from rats to over 40, again most over twenty, loads of mackerel and huge whiting are also being taken as a by-catch on the rigs, are making for some healthy mixed bags. Freddie said that both the **Flying Cloud** and Captain Dust Doerzbaher's **Little Bear** are booking large group charters for this fantastic fishing, so fishing clubs take note. The action is only expected to hold up for another week or so, so try to make it this weekend if at all possible. The Captain noted that the first seabass have been taken in the Cartwright area, so this type of fishing should take off within the next week or so and will hopefully equal or surpass last years great seabassing that was even better than the "old days." Freddie said that an added bonus to fishermen, there is a herd of about 50 whales in the same area all week that has been providing the cod and pollack bonanza.

Captain John DeMaio of the charter-boat **Vivienne** was so enthusiastic about the cod and pollack fishing when we called for a fishing report last week that the staff of The Fisherman made a charter with John on Wednesday. Needless to say if you've read thus far what's been happening at Montauk, the trip was one of the most fantastic fishing trips any of those aboard had ever been on. Along for the action were Rich Reina, Stu "Nose Job" Miller, Scott Simons

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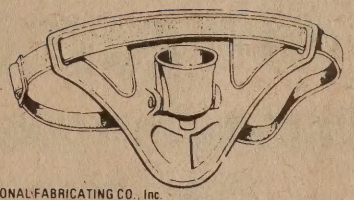

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and friend Frank Michelson. (Stu would only agree to go along if the Captain agreed to keep the winds below 10 miles or less all day, which he did. Who wants to have to fish a new nose out of a holding tank?) When we first arrived in the area south of Block Island, it was a "slow" pick with "only" about a dozen cod taken on the rigs in the first hour of fishing. But the fishing gradually grew hotter and hotter and reached a cresendo that lasted about two hours, and after only four hours of fishing, everyone's arms wore out and it was decided to call it a day. Score for the day: 38 cod to 30 pounds with the vast majority in the 20's almost out of the same mold and 32 pollack up to 29 pounds, again most in the mid-twenties. Back at the dock the combined catch weighed over a thousand pounds gutted. All aboard had at least one double-header, and Stu Miller lost the Carvel pool once again to run his string of losses up to 37, a new world record. Publisher Rich Reina was caught goofing off several times trying to rest his arms between fish by just letting his jig hang motionless at mid-level...it didn't work, the pollack kept committing suicide, motionless jig or not. So much for technique!

Hank Neville of **Gone Fishing Marina** reports that Ed Jarvis of Patchogue and Ed Burke of Ozone Park launched their boat "Jeannie J" at the Marina on Sat. After going into 70 feet of water off Montauk Pt. they came back with cod, several weighing over 21 pounds. It was an overall good catch, using clams, of over 50 cod.

Capt. Bud Dorman of the **Viking Skipper II** dropped by The Fisherman's new offices in Sag Harbor on Monday morning to tell us about the red hot cod and pollack fishing his boat has been having for almost two weeks now. The best fishing is in the area south of Block Island known locally as the "Out of the World Grounds." Anglers are literally walking off the boat with bags of fish, and there doesn't seem to be any end in sight to the amount of fish in the area.

Capt. Paul Forsberg of the **Viking Star** called to say that the boat has been scoring extremely heavily with the cod and pollack south of Block Island and the fish are really huge. On Sunday the pool was won by 12-year old Kenneth Salzberg from Bayside with a 50 lb. cod. Al Kelley of Far Rockaway had to settle for second place in the pool with his 48 lb. cod, but Al also had 29 other fish and was high hook so he didn't exactly go home moping. The captain said that the SMALLEST cod and pollack being taken are 14 to 16 lb. class with most fish in the 20's, and confirmed that the diamond jigs are slaughtering the fish while the bait fishermen are doing virtually nothing in comparison.

Henry Colombi of the **Star Island Yacht Club** called to report that the cod and pollack fishing was excellent off Block Island and that the snowshoe flounders are in thick at Promised Land. The "Bar Bar Jac" fished south of Block Island Saturday and finished up the day with 21 cod up to 50 pounds. The "Bumble Bee" took 40 snowshoe flounder up to 5 pounds off Gardiner's

sland. Henry also said that the local gillnetters have been taking tons of weakfish up to 15 pounds so it looks like another good year for the big tide-runners.

Captain Frank Macaro of the **Free Spirit** called to tell us that on Wednesday he had a 2 man charter fishing southeast of Block Island which accounted for 27 cod plus a few macks and whiting. This was all done on diamond jigs and tubes for teasers. Sunday's six man charter also southeast of Block Island saw ten cod and 70 whiting come up. Frank says that an early morning stop at the Sub Buoy produces cod also.

Capt. Grandinetti of the **Julie III** and friend Greg caught over 600 pounds of cod and pollack southeast of Block Island on Saturday. Five of the pollack went from 25 to 27 pounds; cod ranged from 10 to 31 pounds. All told, 46 cod and pollack were caught, diamond jigs doing the job. Beautiful weather for beautiful fishing.

PROMISED LAND

Art Brand of the **Promised Land Fishing Station** reports this to be the best weekend of this year. On Saturday Harold Marshall and two friends had 70 flounder with the biggest being 4 pounds fishing can 3 with mussels. On Sunday the fishing was a bit slower but still good. A few blacks have been taken between 4 and 8 pounds at can 3 on worms while flounder fishing. Last week's report should have read "8 flounder out of the 29 taken were over 3 pounds."

Ray Tamborrino, Al Saralino and Sal Mattero of the Bronx with 29 of the finest kind. 8 fish were from 3 to 3 ½ pounds taken aboard one of Promised Land Fishing Station's rental skiffs.

EAST HAMPTON

Three Mile Harbor Fishing Station reports flounders at Cedar Point on the flood, and these are mostly 2 lb. fish taken on mussel and clam. Forty were taken by one boat and this was at buoy 3 in Cockels Harbor. Chumming with mussels is a must. In the channel area flounders from 1 to 1½ pounds were taken.

NOYAC

Noyac Marina reports that on Saturday Thomas Savarese and Gary Clockner of Hackensack N.J. had 4 nice sized weaks fishing buoy 16 using pink and yellow Salty Dogs. Bill Laundrie of Noyac had 1 weakfish of 8½ pounds and 10 nice flounder fishing buoy 16.

SAG HARBOR

Bayview Marina and Fishing Station reports that the weaks are in solid now, with best results being between buoys 14 and 15 in Shelter Island Sound. Chris's dad, Tom had 18 weaks, from 7 to 11 pounds on the flood using yellow artificial shrimp. Weaks are also being wire lined at the ferry. Stripers are increasing in activity at the ferry on bucktails and umbrellas. Flounders went down a bit in size this past week due to the moon tides but should show as bigger size fish by the time you read this report. Best flounder areas are outside of Cedar Point with worm and mussel baits, heavy on the chum.

SHINNECOCK

Capt. Clark Bellows Sr. of the **Captain Clark Fleet** said that Sunday was the first good day with the weakfish and it looks like the Peconic Bay weakfish run could break wide open any day. The fish are the biggest kind, ranging from 6 to 9 pounds. Sunday's score was 40 weaks for 12 men, with most of the action in the afternoon during incoming water at Cow's Neck and Roses Grove. The fish have been hitting white shrimp touts with a strip of squid best over other colors, and a few have also been caught on squid baits rigged high. A doormat fluke of over 5 pounds was also taken on Sunday, along with the first catch of 20 jumbo sea porgies in the same area, which means that the porgy action should also break open in the near future.

Mickey at **Altenkirch Tackle** reported that the weakfishing is off to a good start off Robins Island and Cow's Neck. Fish up to eleven pounds were taken on the weekend, using plastic shrim and "pussycat" lures, and there are still a few weaks moving through the canal yet. A few fluke are also showing in the canal when the locks are closed, and two small bluefish were taken on Sunday and Monday when the locks were OPEN. Mickey said that there are still plenty of flounder in Shinnecock Bay, but no one is bothering with them with fluke and weakfish starting. Mackerel fishing is fantastic right outside the inlet, and one angler came in on Sunday with 300 lbs. Joe Ferraro almost set a new I.G.F.A. while jigging for mackerel on Sunday, when a 21 lb., 2 oz. pollock grabbed the rig he was fishing on six pound test monofilament. Only problem was the rig was a mackerel tree, NG by IGFA rules. One other 20 pound pollock was taken on the same boat, so there must be quite a few in the area if anyone wants to try and find them

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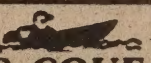

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HAMPTON BAYS

Corr's Fishing Station reports that flounder fishing in Shinnecock Bay held up this past week with catches of 20 to 60 good sized flounder by many anglers. Best areas were the Basket and East of the inlet towards Heady Creek. Fish were had on the rising tide using mussels and worms. Fluke started to show. Mr and Mrs. Scheter had 5 good sized keepers on Friday. Weakfishing is now alive in Peconic Bay with many good catches taken. Corr's would like to congratulate 3 regular anglers. Dick and Jeff Woods of New Hyde Park and Jake Hansen of Northport for their amazing catch on May 2nd. They had 68 weaks from 4 to 10 pounds, 2 fluke and 2 flounder fishing off Heady Creek with no net aboard.

Tony's Fishing Station reports excellent flounder fishing right in front of the station with catches of ½ bushel a man. 4 fluke were taken while flounder fishing.

MORICHES BAY

Cerullo Brothers Fishing Station reported that the flounder fishing was excellent on Saturday, but slowed up on Sunday for some reason. Bill and Eleanor Scaduto fished around buoy 32 on Saturday and took 75 flounder, 12 of which were over two lbs. They used bloodworms for bait and chummed heavily with mussel chum. Another hot

Jim Hull, Jim Hull Jr. and Tom Sabella of Bkly'n took 50 flounder up to 1¾ pounds fishing buoys 46 and 47 using bloodworms and mussel chum on the incoming tide. Photo courtesy of Seatuck Cove Fishing Station.

area has been between buoy 27 and the Red House. Incoming water has seen the hottest action in both areas. A few short fluke were taken over the weekend, so the fluking should get started in the near future.

Hi-Way Marina reports that flounder are being taken at buoys 42, 43 and 44 for those who wait them out. A 6 lb. 4 o weakfish was taken at buoy 50.

Tadsen's Fishing Station reports th flounder fishing has picked up with nic catches being taken at buoy 27 and 2 On Sunday two people took 75 flounde averaging 1 to 1½ pounds on worms an mussel chum.

Seatuck Cove Fishing Station repor that on Saturday all boats did reasonab well but Sunday was an extremely goo day for the 8 skiffs that made it throug the Mother's Day flack, with catches from 28 to 55 flounder per skiff, fishin from buoys 42 to 44. Sand and bloo worms did it with mussel chum an incoming tide working best.

MASTIC BEACH

Stiriz's Fishing Station reports goo flounder fishing over the weekend buoy 17, good sized fish up to 1 pounds, with the highs best. Worm an mussel baits and lots of chum are th ticket. The first signs of fluke on squ and pink shrimp jigs have been note Weaks have been taken at buoy 12 at lo water with a very good showing in th early morning and in the eve. These a fish up to 7 pounds 14 ounces. Lots eels at buoy 20. Macks up and down the outside.

SAYVILLE

Young's Fishing Station reports heav action on the weakfish mainly at Ocea Beach for sharpies using green or amb rubber shrimp fished mainly at the hig The incomparable Mr. Toledo ha

Kevin and Kris McCormack with 47 flounder up to 2 pounds 8 ounces taken northeast of buoy 42. Photo courtesy of Skidmore's Fishing Station.

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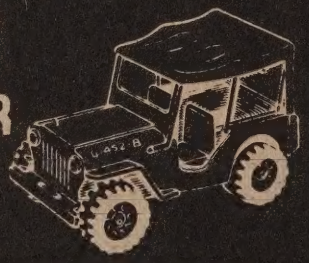

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Capt. Bill does it again with the first tiderunners of the season in the Mastic area fishing buoy 12 with Salty Dogs. Photo courtesy of Stiriz's Marina.

another good score this past weekend, exact method given in last week's LIF. Another angler took 130 flounders between Ocean Beach and the Pines on worms. According to Dudley Young, the flounder fishing is very good in the aforementioned area.

WEST SAYVILLE

South Bay Fishing Station reports three friends in one boat took 16 weakfish at buoys 17 and 19 in East Channel, fish up to 7¼ pounds on pink and green rubber shrimp with squid strips. Good sized flounders are also being taken at the Heckscher Flats north of buoy 5. (The 3 pals in the boat were the famous 3 Gs, Gary, Gil, and Gordon of Glen Cove.) One kingfish was taken. All boats going out had fish this past week.

EAST ISLIP

Wet-A-Line Bait and Tackle tells of weakfish at Ocean Beach on pink and white rubber shrimp with grass shrimp for chum. Outgoing tide is best. Blacks are being taken at the artificial reef on fiddlers. Mackerel in 80 feet of water.

CAPTREE

Captain Ben of the **Captain Ben Litwin** said that the flounder fishing was very good on both Saturday and Sunday off Ocean Beach, West Island and the Sore Thumb. The fishing is terrific with a lot of big fish, and about 2 or 3 fluke being taken on the flounder rigs daily so the action won't be too far away.

The **Capt. Richie** also has been having fabulous flounder fishing with the average angler taking 15 to 20 fish and the high-hooker for the day usually up around the mid-thirties. The fish are mixed sizes with plenty of big ones and very few throwbacks. Best areas have been off Ocean Beach, West Island and the Bay Shore flats. The fish are hitting on both tides and seem to be moving around a lot. The Captain said that it is a shame to start fluke fishing soon while the flounder action is so great. On Sunday his 6 year old daughter Lesen was on board and caught 14 flounders without daddy's help.

Capt. George Tweedy of the **Captain Scotty** reported that the evening weakfishing has been fair, but it looks like the fishing is ready to bust wide open. On Friday and Saturday afternoon trips about 20 weaks were taken, and on Sunday 30 were boated, all nice big fish. Daytime fishing for the weakfish has been poor, with the best spots in the holes of West Channel and off Ocean Beach. Flounder fishing has been great all over the bay, and many fish are being taken while drifting when the wind is against the tide and the boat moves slowly.

Captain Neil Delanoy of the charterboat **Lady Ann** confirmed the excellent flounder fishing. On Friday the charter was mackerel fishing and had enough fish to go home after making only one drift. Hot area was 5 miles southwest of the inlet, and everyone walked off the boat with a skimmer bag filled to the top with big macks. Flounder fishing on Saturday was fantastic with over 700 fish being taken by anglers from the Welfare Cove Inn. The flounder that took the pool weighed in at 2 pounds 7 ounces in the bait station, beating out a fluke for the honors. Best fishing has been off Atlantique between buoys 10 and 12 in East Channel. Neil said that the dawn weakfish trip on Sunday was slow, but the fishing should take off at any moment. Andrew Nussbaum, 13 years old, took two weakfish of 4½ and 5¾ pounds and also put 6 flounder in his bag. Weakfish action has been best at the change of the tide around Ocean Beach and in West Channel. The next dawn weakfish special is scheduled for Friday, May 20th at 4:30 P.M. There is a twenty man limit, you need a reservation and deposit is required. For further info, call Capt. Neil at 516 698-5918.

BAY SHORE

Smokey's Bait and Tackle reports that Mike Mckeowa of Bayshore took an 11 lb. weak on a white bucktail at 10 P.M. at West Ocean Beach on Friday's flood. Bob Anthony and Karl Kenyon fished one hour at Point-O-Woods, taking 4 big weaks on pink artificial shrimp. Flounders are best at the Sore Thumb and are excellent out in front of the Lighthouse on worms and mussels and lots of chum. Joe Guarisco took 8 weakfish on Wed. off Point-O-Woods in 1½ hours on pink shrimp lures. A few bluefish in the bay have been chopping these rubber artificials in half. A few fluke are being accidently caught and the mackerel are in scattered pods on the outside. The leading weakfish in Smokey's contest is a 9 lb. 4 oz. tiderunner.

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OAK BEACH

The Store reports that Fred Lang had a early year blackfish catch, 9 on Wednesday to 2½ pounds at the rock jetties south of **The Store,** all on fiddlers. Flounders are excellent on both sides of The Store on worms and clam baits while big sea flounders are hitting clam off the beaches, fish going up to 3½ pounds. Good weakfishing off Ocean Beach for this past week and under the draw bridge on artificial shrimp, both pink and white. A few fluke taken from the inlet both accidently and on purpose. Mack catches are solid, when you find the fish. Sundial king Tex in his 8 foot tin boat landed 18 over the weekend.

BABYLON

Bill at **Babylon Fishing Station** reports good fishing all this past week with flounders and weakfish in predominance. Those who had an idea of what to do brought back from 8 to 10 weakfish per man. Best was just at the start of the ebb on white or green rubber shrimp tipped with squid. Flounders good at Fair Harbor. The weakfish are full of shrimp and shiners. Babylon Cut is holding weakfish also. Flounders are abundant off the Lightouse and along the inlet plus behind Grass Island where a few fluke have been also lurking. Eels are abundant.

Charlie's Fishing Station reports a big flounder catch for Tony Bushman along with Mr. Rudnet and sons Vance and Brian, probably at Snake Hill Channel. This week all skiffs did very well on flounder as evidenced by a Mr. Tokay

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and buddies who did a job at Fox Creek/Grass Island on bloodworms and a lot of chum.

LINDENHURST

Charlie's Bait and Tackle reports the best flounder is at the Sore Thumb with worms and chumming a must. Macks on the outside south of the Whistler and getting better. Be liberal with the bunker chum to keep them around the boat. The hot news is weakfish. Jim Namoli did a job at Ocean Beach on weakfish using red Pussycats. Fluorescent pink artificial shrimp are also hot. Tip of the week: Try dipping the tail of a rubber shrimp in cod liver oil, available at drug stores. Early morning and late afternoon seem to be best for weakfish with the lack of boat traffic at those times probably the crucial factor. A few fluke and blacks at the reef and Sore Thumb. Two five pound stripers were mixed in with 12 weakfish for one angler this past week, the weaks running 4 to 10 pounds.

COPIAGUE

Jonas Bait and Tackle reports lots of weakfish caught through this week and weekend with Ocean Beach, the Copiague Hole, the draw bridge in the State Channel and Garbage Cove at East Fox Creek producing well. Best is Ocean Beach giving forth fish up to 8 pounds on Viking Shrimpies and Pussycat lures, colors anyone's choice. A five pound blackfish was taken on a flounder rig at the Copiague Hole. Flounders have been spotty this past week, though some boats did very well. Jonas heard of schoolies being taken at Democratic Pt. on clams.

AMITYVILLE

George Combs Bait and Tackle tells us that Leroy Ford bagged an 8½ lb. weakfish on a sand worm off Amityville Beach on Friday. Weaks should be fished from Unqua Pt. in the East West Channel to the Copiague Hole. The State Channel at Gilgo Landing is also producing weakfish. This would be on pink shrimp and also on squid strips. Some fluke are being taken in the State Channel. Try a hi-lo rig with sandworms and killies. Flounders are good at Squaw Island and Goose Creek with some biggies taken from Zach's Bay to the Sloop Channel Bridge on worms and mussels and either muusel or clam chum. Try clam for big flounders. Some blackfish at the Wantagh Bridges. George says that he now has sand shrimp and live killies.

Captain Mike Miller of the charterboat **Apus** called to say that he has been fishing the Sore Thumb with sandworms and mussel chum and making very good flounder catches, fish going from 1 to 2¼ pounds. Mike says that the fluke are running better now and he nabbed four of them weighing up to 3 pounds. He also took 2 five lb. weakfish and a few 3 pound blacks. For the weaks and fluke they used hi-lo rigs and squid.

MASSAPEQUA

Bill at **Massapequa Tackle and Sports** reports very good flounder fishing a Massapequa Cove and Four Corners Morty Brown of Massapequa and gang took 120 flatties at the Cove using bloodworms and mussels for bait, heavy on the chum on Saturday. Blacks have been hitting flounder rigs on occasion Weaks at Gilgo, West Island and Ocean Beach on various colored shrimp lures Bill fished Ocean Beach on Friday morning, releasing 4 weaks up to pounds which fell to white Pussycats. He kept a 6 lb. fluke which also fell to white Pussycat. Eves are best for the weakfish as evidenced by Ken Kelley's pound weak taken Saturday night on pink Viking Shrimpie at Oak Beach from the surf. Some fluke at the inlets or drifted sand eels and squid. Mackerel found and taken Sat. and Sun. from 75 to 100 feet of water. Plenty of whiting and ling not far off the beach. Bill says he has killies for you fluke hunters.

SEAFORD

Lon Wanser Bait and Tackle report lots of flounders at Four Corners Massapequa Cove, Squaw Island, West of the draw bridge and Zach's Bay Worms and a lot of mussel chum are the ticket. A few early fluke are showing and the weakfish off Unqua Pt. are showing liking of just about any color shrimp lure Some blacks at the bridges on fiddler and this will improve, probably by the weekend.

BELLMORE

Roy at **Merrick Marine Supplies** tell of fluke up to 3 pounds being drifted a the Jones Inlet bars with sand eels Weaks at Ocean Beach taking artificia shrimp or sand worms. Plenty o flounders at Rowboat Alley, Swift Creek and East Bay. The bigger ones are hitting clam baits and go heavy on the chum. Mackerel are spotty about 5 miles off the beach.

Ed Mossman of Manhattan with the first weakfish of the season of 6 ¼ pounds taken on spearing near buoy 17. Photo courtesy of South Bay Fishing Station.

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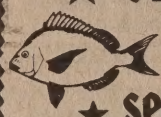

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N.Y. BIGHT Fishing Report

FREEPORT

The Starstream II reports super fantastic mackerel fishing from Monday through Saturday with at least a bag per man. These fish were close by, anywhere from 3 minutes up to 15 miles from the inlet. Captain Richie Kessinger says that the fishing was great—just great! Could not be better. These were big Bostons from ¾ to 1½ pounds. The weather was good and so was the fishing and customers were clammering to go home by 1 P.M. Richie cautions however, that each days conditions and catches are subject to change, though he hopes for continued good action. While he had 7 consecutive days of mackerel slaughter, Richie says to let people know that catches are never guaranteed, just as nothing in life is ever guaranteed. "Fish have tails and conditions vary." In any case macks still seem to be a pretty safe bet if you try for them now.

The **Captain Al** reports very good mackerel fishing and fantastic whiting fishing. The macks are anywhere from the Whistler to the 100 foot line. Bags and bags of macks with plenty of whiting for those who want them, says Al. Captain Butch is doing fantastic on the evening mackerel trips also which he sails at 6 P.M. on Wednesday, Thursday Friday and Saturday eves, returning around midnight. Al expects about another fairly consistent week of macks.

Sea Isle Sports boss man Ron Feurning reports good flounder fishing in Swift Creek, Squaw Island and Haunts Creek on worms and chum, either mussel or clam. A few fluke in Swift Creek, so be ready for them. Some weakfish at the Wantagh and Meadowbrook Bridges on worms and shrimp jigs with best at the cZange of the tide, either way. Mackerel seem to be hit or miss offshore and

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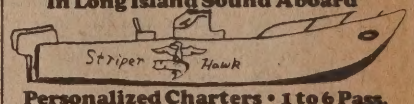

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Ronnie believes they are being pursued by bluefish. Bass rumors.

Frank's Fishing Station reports that Willie Raimonda and Rich Littlefield had 6 fluke in Jones Inlet on squid and sandeels on Tuesday. Doug and Jeff had 112 flounder from 1½ to 2 pounds on worms and mussel chum just east of Fundy Bay. Weaks are being taken inside the inlet on grass shrimp on incoming while chumming with grass shrimp.

Captain Paul Schmidt of the **Aloma Fleet** reports the **Aloma II** bailed mackerel over the whole weekend very close in, while the **Aloma** had whiting, ling, blacks and sea bass on a local wreck.

The **Captain Lou II** reports that he continues very good activity on big flounder locally, with a 3 pounder being taken early this past week. Lou's mate, Mike Danon, who has been sailing with Lou since Mike was 8 years old, (he's now 16) is getting his Captain's License and will soon be running the boat along with Lou. Saturday saw 400 plus flounders up to 2½ pounds taken fishing south of Loop Bridge, just before Reynolds Channel and also at the Coast Guard Station at the start of incoming. A blowfish, a few sea robins and one herring were also taken on the weekend. Sunday had very good catches also, about 15 per man. Monday through Friday also saw good fishing. Looks like the start of a good season.

Captain Sy of the **Blue Fin Fleet** called to say that he still has some openings for his tilefishing trip and that for future tile trips he will also take complete clubs by charter. The **Blue Fin II** fished flounder locally Saturday and had good catches plus 4 fluke on clam in Swift Creek. He heard of ten on a private boat, taken in the same area. Mussel and clam chum did it along with worms on the hook. On Sunday, **BF II** ran southwest of the inlet, stopped on heavy mackerel readings, ladeled some chum and took over 350 macks. The **Blue Fin** had the 3M Company out on Saturday for mackerel and flounder and they did well on both with Ray Cotti being hi-hook with 20 flounder.

The open boat **Capt. Hall** reported good mackerel fishing this past week and weekend with a lot of whiting and ling thrown in. You've got to find the mackerel, the Captain reported, but when you do find them, you bail. Lots of fish on the bottom also.

MERRICK

George at **Nick's Fishing Station** reports the flounder action is still good and the fish remain of good size. Haunts Creek was best this week as was the juncture of Broad and Haunts Creek. Worms and mussel chum did the job with both sides of the low working best this past week. Good weakfishing at Ocean Beach. One customer had 27 weaks while another customer boated 9 and lost 9. Artificial shrimp tipped with squid is the ticket. "Broker Dan" had 27 keeper fluke on Saturday and nine on Sunday while drifting sand worms and squid, probably in Swift Creek.

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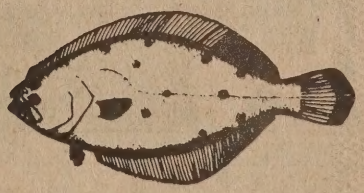

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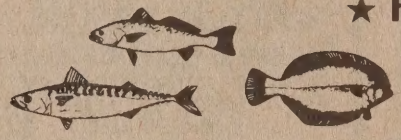

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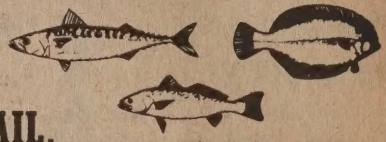

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POINT LOOKOUT

Ed's Fishing Station reports that flounder fishing is holding up. Max Horowitz had 18 flounder in the 2 lb. class with the largest being 3 pounds 2 ounces taken east of the Meadowbrook Bridge. The boats out averaged 20 fish per man. On Saturday Benny and Isak Kozuch had 16 fluke up to 3½ pounds in Reynolds Channel. On Sunday Benny went back and took 12 more keeper fluke. Blackfish can be taken at the Meadowbrook and Long Creek Bridges. Mackerel can be caught 4 miles outside of the inlet. A 30 lb. striper was caught while jigging for mackerel in this area.

The Marie III reports great fishing over the weekend. On Saturday the mackerel fishing was slow but the wreck fishing for ling, sea bass, whiting and blacks was good. On Sunday they had furious mackerel fishing by Jones Inlet and also did some wreck fishing. Mixed bags of fish were taken on both days.

ISLAND PARK

The open boat **Jennie Mae** reports that they had very good mackerel and whiting fishing all this past week fishing S/S/E of the inlet anywhere from 4 to 15 miles offshore. Bill says that the fishing was exceptionally good and looks forward to more of the same.

Beckman's Tackle reports good blackfishing under the bridges. Blacks average 2 to 3 pounds and can be caught under the Meadowbrook Bridge on fiddlers and green crabs. Flounder fishing is good if you chum. Fluke fishing is on the increase in Reynolds Channel.

SHEEPSHEAD BAY

Captain Tom on the **Pilot II** tells us that he had lots of blackfish and mackerel on Sunday at his pet offshore wrecks. He says that now that the temperature is rising, the blackfishing

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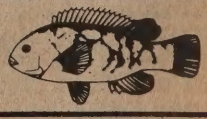

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should improve quickly. A lot of 4-6 lb. blackfish came over the rail and he also had frantic periods of mackerel action thrown in.

The **Flamingo II** reports great catches of mackerel but you have to search for them and it requires a lot of moving around, but a decent, solid catch is accumulated by the end of the day, and that's what counts. Walter is getting whiting on the bottom as well. He says he doesn't know how long the mackerel will last and he is prepared to fall back on the whiting and ling which he knows can provide good solid fishing. He is presently working the areas around the Ambrose Area and the BA buoy.

Captain Nick on the **Blue Sea III** reports plenty of macks from the tower to the BA with whiting on the bottom. Customers are bagging up with combinatins of whiting or mackerel, whatever they want.

The **Dorothy B** has been having good whiting and ling catches at Scotland along with some mackerel mixed in. The fishing has been terrific says Captain Kevin, mainly whiting and ling, bags full.

Captain Larry Krim of the **Eagle** reports excellent mackerel fishing through Sunday fishing southeast of Ambrose. One drift on Sunday lasted close to 2 hours. Larry's night whiting trips are also resulting in heavy catches. See ad for days and sailing time.

The **Chief** reports plenty of ling and whiting, fishing the Scotland area.

The **Helen H** is staying with mackerel only and reports good fishing around the Ambrose Tower all this past week.

STATEN ISLAND

Santo's Sport Shop reports that some larger stripers are being taken on the beach side of Great Kills on worms. Nick Mankowski had a 15 lb. 13 oz. bass, Jim Gallo took a 16 pounder and Doug Flash had a 12 pounder. Weakfish from 5-6 pounds are being caught by the bass fishermen. Some small blues from 1 to 2 pounds are being taken in Great Kills Harbor.

JAMAICA BAY

Cross Bay Bait and Tackle reports flounder from ½ to 1½ pounds taken on worms and mussels at the North and South Channel Bridges. Also, bass have been taken under the bridges. Blacks are starting to show off Rockaway Beach and the Marine Parkway Bridge on clams.

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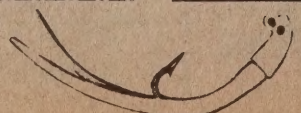

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NORTH SHORE Fishing Report

GREENPORT

The Wilhelric is presently weakfishing and things really came to life on Sunday. Fish are being taken up to 12 pounds along with big humpback porgies. The weaks are taking pink and orange touts. See the **Wilhelric** ad for sailing time. They're making 2 weakfish trips daily, 8 A.M. and 7 P.M.

A. P. White Bait Shop reports a good showing of tackle-busting weakfish in Peconic Bay. Flounder ranging from one to three pounds are being taken on the east side of Gardiners Island. A few porgies have been taken in the Peconics. Blackfishing can be found in the Sound and Gardiners Island.

SOUTHOLD

Kelly at **Port of Egypt** said the flounder were very good at buoys 12 and 14. The weakfish were excellent at buoys 17 and 18 with the largest weighing in at 8 pounds. There are a few porgies around at buoy 12 up to 2 pounds.

NEW SUFFOLK

Capt. Marty's Fishing Station reports that there are plenty of weaks from six to ten-and-one-half pounds being taken at buoy 30 and 32. Average catches of 12-15 per boat are being had on salty dogs, bingle dandy lures or squid or sandworms for bait fishermen. Porgies from one-and-a-half to two pounds are being caught in the South Race on mostly worms. On Saturday,one boat came in with 75 flounder from the buoy 22 area averaging 1-1/2 pounds but one flounder was up to three pounds.

AQUEBOGUE

Warrens Tackle Center said they're still getting flounders at buoys 4 and 8

Dominick DeRanieri, Ted Kalolekas, Tony Puzzele and Julius Kay with 35 flounder taken off Nassau Point on mussels. Photo courtesy of Capt. Marty's Fishing Station.

and there's still quite a few mackerel around buoy 17 off Jessup's Neck. Early in the morning a few weaks are being taken off Cow's Neck up to 8 pounds, but the fishing isn't spectacular. There's lots of fish in the bay but they don't seem to be hitting. Some bunker were reported in the middle of the Sound but nothing has broken loose just yet. One guy came in with five porgies in the two pound class taken at the South Race. We look for another weekend before things really get started. Things should start picking up by the end of the month. Don't forget there is a contest going on at the shop for the biggest weakfish. Stop by or call for more details.

JAMESPORT

Jamesport Bait & Tackle reports weakfish are being taken at Robbin Island with a hotspot being between buoys 25-32. There is a good showing of fluke in the Robbins Island area with fish from 3-4 pounds being taken on squid.

ROCKY POINT

Rocky Point Fishing Stop reports he had a good week with the first porgie of 1½ lbs. coming into the station, taken at buoy 11. Vinnie Napoli took a 5½ lb. weakfish while flounder fishing. The mackerel fishing is great and the flounder fishing is still holding strong. Blackfishing has picked up fishing with worms.

SELDEN

Anglers Den reports that blackfish up to 7 lbs. 3 oz. have been taken off Cedar Beach. Flounder fishing is good. Dick Brunquell had a 2 lb. 14 oz. flounder off Gardiners and Walter Matejovic took a 2 lb. 13 oz. flounder off Matituck. Several weakfish came into the store. Bill Caldwell took a 7 lb. 12 oz. weak off Heckscher and Ken Freeman of the Anglers Den got out and came up with five weaks from 5½ to 8 lbs., fishing off Heckscher. Mackerel are still doing well on the North Shore.

MT. SINAI HARBOR

Ralph's Fishing Station reports good mackerel fishing over the weekend. The flounder fishing is very good outside the harbor. Blackfishing has picked up as of Sunday. A 1½ lb. porgie has been taken off Mt. Sinai Harbor.

Dick's Sporting Goods called in to report that he had a great week. Lots of big blacks are showing and the flounder fishing is still very good. Worms are the bait for both. Mackerel fishing is very good, using Hopkins, any shiny lure or mackerel trees. On Sunday, they came into the beach and 8-12 mackerel per man were taken from 2½ to 3 lbs.

PORT JEFFERSON

The **Betty W** called in to report that mackerel are in heavy. Blackfishing remains slow but is improving. Blacks in the 6-8 lb. range have been taking the pool on the open boat. Flounder are

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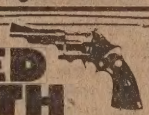

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around in decent numbers. Charlie Miller took Tuesday's pool with a 7 lb. black and Ed Perone took Sunday's pool with a 2 lb. flounder.

NORTHPORT

John at **Caraftis Fishing Station** said there's lots of mackerel at buoy 11. It's almost guaranteed fishing from day break to 9 a.m. at which time they head out into the middle. Flounder fishing is good with fish going up to 2½ pounds of Flacks Pond and Miller Place. Blackfishing is just fair at present and should reach a peak in about two weeks. It's a mixed bag of fishing right now with fluke, weaks and porgies and a few blacks up to 8 pounds.

Tom at **Bowman's Sporting Goods** said everything is running. There's some good sized flats being taken off Callahans and Eaton's Neck Coast Guard. One-half a mile to one-mile offshore is the best bet. Sandworms and a chum pot are the best bet for these flatties. One fellow took a nine pound blackfish on a flounder rig on Thursday at Eaton's Neck using green crabs. Inshore they're using fiddler crabs. There's a few weakfish locally at the Lilco hot water using plastic shrimp with squid. There are millions of sand eels out there. Wednesday at 12:30 P.M. at Valley Grove Beach between Sand City and the Coast Guard Station, one fellow found school bass working the sand eels and proceeded to get some of these fish with a plug. Tom felt this was a good sign pointing towards a lot of bass. The boats are loading up with mackerel with some boats bringing in 100 fish or more taken three miles off. Diamond jigs and trees are accounting for all the fish.

NORTHPORT

The **Chainlocker** reports that the flounder are suffering from an identity problem and are hitting bait as though they are bluefish. The best fishing seems

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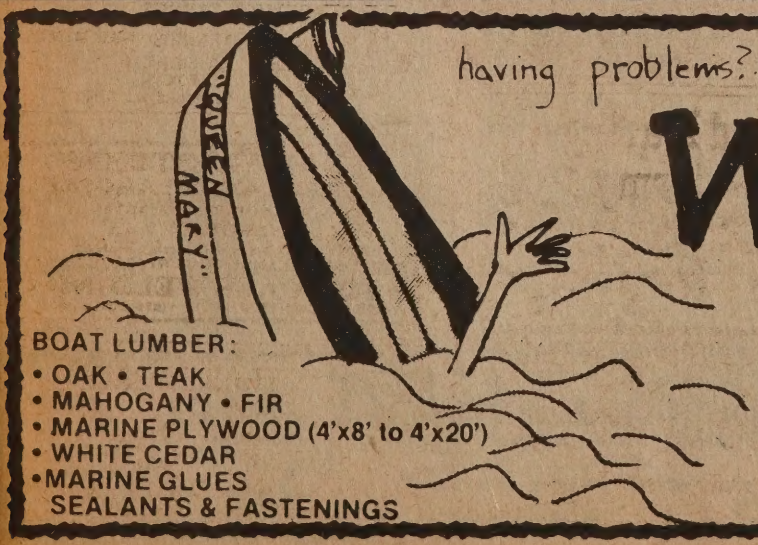

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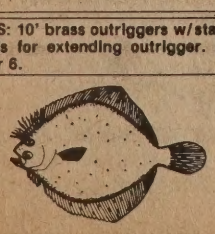

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to be drifting sandworms in anything but a fast moving tide, then anchoring and chumming heavily does the trick. Mackerel are chasing bait from Callahans to Diamond Point at Oyster Bay, and at the loading platform at Lilco. Weakfish are being taken southwest of Little Neck Point in Centerport. Blackfishing is slow off Callahans and machmah but nice blacks can be had on the inside of Duck Island and Target Rock. Millions of sand eels are in the water on the outside which makes for some early striper action.

HUNTINGTON

Ronnie's Bait & Tackle reports good striper action at the Cold Spring Causeway, trolling worms and surf-casting. Rebels and eelets produced bass up to 22 lbs. Good flounder catches have been taken off Duck Harbor and Callahans on sandworms and mussel chum. Mackerel fishing is excellent from Eatons Neck to Cold Spring Harbor on mackerel trees and diamond jigs. Blackfish have yet to get started.

GLEN COVE

Glen Cove Sports reports nice mixed bags are being taken at Pryble Beach. These mixed bags consist of flounder up to 1 lb., blackfish up to 4 lbs., mackerel averaging 2 lbs. and school bass on worms. Garveys Point is producing flounder and Morgan jetty is producing flounders and blacks. School bass are being taken trolling worms over the

★ DIAMOND JIGGING ★

(Continued from page 21.)

the surge from the sea. If the boat backs up to the lure the action changes. You may not want this. Want it or not you should be able to feel this happening. Feel the lure action change. I most often pick up the retrieve when this happens, which keeps the lure moving as I intended it to. Then again the boat can go ahead, causing the line to rise sharply. This creates the reverse condition. (Heavy groundswells raise hell with the inexperienced angler.) In a big sea the boat can surge ahead sharply, and also drop back into the trough. This will minimize the fisherman's control of the lure and make it difficult to feel the bounce.

Most of these problems can be kept to a minimum level if you have the ability to feel the force of the lure drag. This can be done, **only be done**, by keeping the line between your fingers both on the "drop back" and the retrieve. This is how I determine the speed of my boat. Not merely by rpm's, but by the feel of the drag. I can tell how quickly the lure is rising off the bottom. All fishermen feel it differently, still the results should be similar. You **must** know **where** your lure is swimming at all times to achieve success. Most hits occur tight to the bottom. Letting the diamond jig ride high behind the boat in a trolling manner will not work. **Keep it close to the bottom.** This means a lot of ups and downs. If you are not prepared to do the work, try trolling. There are days when the jig is the boss, but over the period of time, the wire will come out ahead. Also as the fishing seems to be getting tougher, the wire proves to be an effective answer. Effective yes, but no fun. Anyone who has had a large bass take the dropped back diamond jig and nearly been pulled over the transom by too light a drag will tell you what is more fun. If you have no one to ask try it yourself.

As a final word I want to go back to concentration. Fish as though you are going to catch something. Every time you drop the jig back you should be expecting a bite. So pay attention to your fishing. Not the other guy or the other boat. Concentrate on what you are doing.

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The FISHERMAN
P.O. Box 1994
Sag Harbor, N.Y. 11963

Paul Trafas, Steve Riff, Otto Medeck and Keith Costantino took 600 to 700 pounds of mackerel in one of Mae's Way Fishing Station's rental skiffs.

rocky areas. Mackerel at the mouth of Hempstead Harbor are hitting mackerel trees. **Glen Cove Sports** has all the necessary baits and is a weigh-in station for LIF's Skillful Angling Award.

KINGS PARK

Mae's Way Fishing Station reports good fishing through the weekend with macks and flounders comprising the bulk of the catch. The first real blackfish action began and there is strong talk of weakfish locally. The river is loaded with sandeels and bass are expected soon. Friday morning, Sam Milazzo had a 4½ lb. brown trout on an amber Tri-Fin eel worm taken from the beach of the mouth of the river. On Saturday, Dom Guastaferro loaded up with big Boston macks. Frank Perez took a 5 lb. blackfish on a fiddler crab. On Sunday Mickey (Tri-Fin) Chiarrenza got 200 mackerel on his new Jig and Whip rigs.

CITY ISLAND

Jack at **Jack's Bait and Tackle** said mackerel are doing excellent at Execution Light. The macks moved way down this way during the week. There's a few blackfish in the 6 to 7 pound range around. One boat came in Sunday with 64 flats up to 1½ pounds from Half Moon Beach. Fishing is definitely improving. Lots of school bass in turtle Cove which means Harts Island and the site of the CBS Tower should get going soon. Everybody is getting flounders.

NEW ROCHELLE

Captain Pete Pearson reported the **Klondike VI** did very well mackerel fishing this past week with the average fare taking home 100 to 150 fish. On Sunday the fish were picky and you had to cast for the fish. Unfortunately some fares didn't cast and they didn't do so well. Pete said there was some mess of fish out there.

INTERESTED IN-

Worm Trolling
Flounder Hotspots
Blackfish Techniques
Eel Bobbing
Bunker Dunking

IN WESTERN LONG ISLAND SOUND?

We've Got The Book With That Very Title

by Ted Keatley and Fred Luks

This is the book reviewed in the fishing columns of Dave Knickerbocker, Jerry Kenny, Frank Keating, Bill Wisner & Nelson Bryant.

THE ONLY BOOK WHICH TELLS YOU WHERE, WHEN & HOW TO FISH IN THIS AREA!

The book sells for $2.25 at fishing stations and sporting goods stores or order directly from The Fisherman. (Add $.25 for handling & postage plus 7% Sales Tax.)

The LONG ISLAND FISHERMAN
P.O. Box 1994
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516-725-4200

HIGH TIDE TABLES

DAY	SANDY HOOK AM	SANDY HOOK PM	Breakwater Harbor AM	Breakwater Harbor PM	NEW YORK AM	NEW YORK PM	NEW LONDON AM	NEW LONDON PM	WILLETS POINT AM	WILLETS POINT PM	BRIDGEPORT AM	BRIDGEPORT PM	NEWPORT AM	NEWPORT PM	DATE
THUR.	4:10	4:39	5:14	5:53	4:56	5:33	6:11	6:41	8:37	9:04	7:49	8:17	4:14	4:51	5/12
FRI.	5:03	5:29	6:11	6:42	5:52	6:24	7:06	7:29	9:31	9:54	8:45	9:08	5:13	5:43	5/13
SAT.	5:51	6:15	7:01	7:26	6:45	7:10	7:55	8:11	10:19	10:37	9:36	9:55	6:05	6:31	5/14
SUN.	6:37	6:59	7:45	8:05	7:32	7:52	8:34	8:48	11:05	11:18	10:22	10:36	6:51	7:10	5/15
MON.	7:20	7:39	8:26	8:42	8:15	8:31	9:14	9:24	11:46	11:54	11:04	11:17	7:33	7:49	5/16
TUE.	8:01	8:19	9:04	9:19	8:55	9:08	9:50	9:59	—	12:21	11:45	11:55	8:12	8:25	5/17
WED.	8:42	8:59	9:40	9:54	9:33	9:44	10:28	10:39	12:18	12:46	—	12:24	8:50	9:00	5/18
THUR.	9:23	9:39	10:18	10:30	10:13	10:18	11:06	11:11	12:31	12:58	12:34	1:03	9:27	9:35	5/19

HOW TO USE TIDE TABLES

To compute the high tide for the area you wish to fish, simply find the closest area on the conversion tables. Add or subtract the hours and minutes as indicated from that areas station above. Example: "Shinnecock Inlet.....—0 50" is listed under "On SANDY HOOK." —0 50 means you subtract 50 minutes from the times given for the SANDY HOOK STATION for the day you are going fishing. This is the approximate time for the high tide in the area. For low tide, add 6 ½ hours to this figure.

On SANDY HOOK

STATEN ISLAND	+ 0 27
ATLANTIC HIGHLANDS	— 0 01
Red Bank, Navesink R.I.	+ 0 48
Long Branch	— 0 34
SHARK RIVER INLET	— 0 18
Shark River Basin	+ 0 27
MANASQUAN INLET	— 0 12
Seaside Park	— 0 33
Mantoloking Bridge	+ 5 34
TOMS RIVER	+ 4 37
Waretown	+ 2 33
BARNEGAT LIGHT	— 0 20
Manahawkin Bridge	+ 2 33
Beach Haven	+ 1 47
LITTLE EGG INLET	— 0 01
Seven Islands	+ 0 12
Gravelling Point	+ 1 05
Mullica River	+ 1 55
Grassy Bay	+ 1 08
ABSECON INLET	+ 0 14
Atlantic City Pier	— 0 26
Gt. Egg Harbor Inlet	+ 0 12
GREAT EGG HARBOR	+ 0 46
CORSON INLET	+ 0 09
TOWNESEND INLET	+ 0 06
HEREFORD INLET	+ 0 02
Grassy Sound Bridge	+ 0 45
Cape May Harbor	— 0 02
Rehoboth Beach	— 0 07
INDIAN RIVER INLET	+ 0 14
SHINNECOCK INLET	— 0 50
Shinnecock Bay	+ 1 25
East Quogue	+ 2 45
Shinnecock Canal	+ 1 18
Indian Reservation	+ 3 05
MORICHES INLET	— 0 56
Smith's Point	+ 3 28
Harts Cove	+ 1 30
Potunck Point	+ 3 35
Mastic Beach	+ 3 28
FIRE ISLAND INLET	— 0 38
Democrat Point	— 0 38
Coast Guard Station	— 0 19
Fire Island Light	+ 0 47
GREAT SOUTH BAY	
Sayville	+ 3 39
Heckscher State Pk.	+ 3 20
Bay Shore	+ 2 23
Babylon	+ 2 12
Amityville	+ 2 21
JONES INLET	— 0 19
Zachs Bay	+ 1 25
Seaford Harbor	+ 2 05
Freeport Creek	+ 0 34
E. ROCKAWAY INLET	— 0 06
Long Beach Bridge	+ 0 19
ROCKAWAY INLET	— 0 00
Beach Ch. Bridge	+ 0 38
JFK Airport	+ 0 26

On BRIDGEPORT

Lloyd Point	+ 0 08
Cold Spring Harbor	+ 0 08
Bayville Bridge	+ 0 13
Eatons Neck Point	+ 0 03
Northport Bay	+ 0 03
Norwalk Islands	+ 0 10
Smithtown Bay	— 0 03
Cranes Neck Point	+ 0 05
Port Jefferson Harbor	+ 0 03
New Haven Harbor	+ 0 08
Mount Sinai Harbor	— 0 08
Herod Point	— 0 07
Mattituck Inlet	+ 0 19
Horton Point	— 0 20
Truman Beach	— 0 42
Falkner Island	— 0 13
Sachem Head	— 0 10
Branford Harbor	— 0 07
New Haven Harbor	— 0 08
Milford Harbor	— 0 07
Stratford	+ 0 27
Shelton	+ 1 36
Black Rock Harbor	— 0 03
Saugatuck River	— 0 01
South Norwalk	+ 0 10
Greens Ledge	— 0 01
Stamford	+ 0 04
Cos Cob Harbor	+ 0 06
Greenwich	+ 0 02

On NEW LONDON

Orient Point	+ 0 27
Little Gull Is. (Race)	+ 0 12
Greenport	+ 1 04
Southold	+ 1 43
New Suffolk	+ 2 26
South Jamesport	+ 2 32
Shinnecock Canal	+ 2 33
Noyack Bay	+ 2 05
Sag Harbor	+ 0 59
Gardiners Bay	+ 0 21
Promised Land	— 0 14
Montauk Inlet	— 0 25
Montauk Point	— 1 13
Niantic	+ 1 20
Stonington	— 0 33
Noank, Mystic River	— 0 23
THAMES RIVER	
Smith Cove	— 0 01
Norwich	+ 0 09
CONNECTICUT RIVER	
Saybrook jetty	+ 1 10
Lyme	+ 1 24
Essex	+ 1 38
East Haddam	+ 2 41
Higganum Creek	+ 2 54

On WILLETS PT.

Little Neck Bay	— 0 10
Execution Light	— 0 06
Manhasset Bay	— 0 01
Hempstead Harbor	— 0 11
City Island	— 0 03
Rye Beach	— 0 28
Port Chester	— 0 09
Mamaroneck	— 0 08
New Rochelle	— 0 24
Davids Island	— 0 02

On B'WATER HB.

CAPE MAY POINT	— 0 10
Miami Beach	+ 1 17
East Point	+ 0 53
Egg Island Point	+ 0 33
Cape Henlopen	— 0 05
ROOSEVELT INLET	+ 0 09
Mispillion River Ent.	+ 0 33
St. Jones River Ent.	+ 0 57

On NEW YORK

Jersey City	+ 0 07
Geo. Washington Br.	+ 0 46
Spuyten Duyvil	+ 0 58
Ossining	+ 1 53
Peekskill	+ 2 24
West Point	+ 3 16
Newburg	+ 3 42

On NEWPORT

Sakonnet	— 0 10
Tiverton	+ 0 21
Beavertail Point	— 0 02
Prudence Is., Sandy Pt.	+ 0 10
Bristol	+ 0 10
Warren	+ 0 21
Nayatt Point	+ 0 12
Pawtucket	+ 0 21
East Greenwich	+ 0 16
Wickford	+ 0 12
Narragansett Pier	— 0 08
Point Judith Harbor	— 0 07
BLOCK ISLAND	
Great Salt Pond	+ 0 05
Old Harbor	— 0 14
Watch Hill Point	+ 0 44

SUNRISE/SUNSET

5/6	5:50	8:04
5/11	5:44	8:09
5/16	5:39	8:14
5/21	5:34	8:19
5/26	5:31	8:24

PHASES OF THE MOON

NEW	1st Qtr.	FULL	2nd Qtr.
5/18	5/26	5/3	5/10

The schedule of solunar periods for the following week as printed below has been taken from the original Knight Solunar Tables. Plan your day so that you will be fishing good areas during these times when the fish should be most active. The tables are not a guarantee you will catch fish, however.

The major periods begin at the time shown and last for an hour-and-a-half or two hours thereafter, and are in the bold type face. The minor periods are shorter in duration and lighter type.

	AM Minor	AM Major	PM Minor	PM Major
THURS.	1:10	**7:40**	1:35	**8:00**
FRI.	1:50	**8:20**	2:15	**8:45**
SAT.	2:30	**9:00**	3:00	**9:25**
SUN.	3:10	**9:40**	3:40	**10:05**
MON.	3:50	**10:25**	4:20	**10:45**
TUES.	4:35	**11:05**	5:00	**11:25**
WED.	5:15	**11:45**	5:40	—
THURS.	5:55	**12:10**	6:25	**12:30**

Berkley Trilene: The best fishing line made. Period.

TRILENE REPORTS

Big enough to be good. Small enough to care.

Berkley—The "non-conglomerate" fishing tackle company. Don't know if you've noticed or not, but some of the old, familiar names in the fishing tackle business are sporting a new look. Seems most of them have been taken over by some of the "big guys" in American business. Now that isn't necessarily bad, but it can make a difference in the kind of people you deal with—instead of talking to "good ole" Carl or Buster or Ed when you have a problem or a question about a product, you have to write a Vice President of this or that who's all wrapped up in the problems of a big business. And, you know what? That can make a difference.

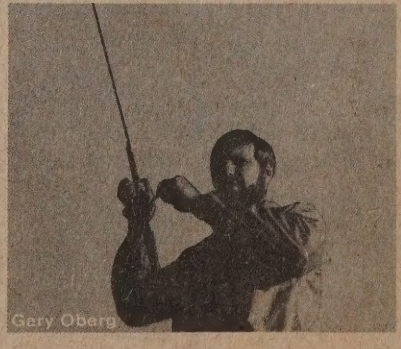
If these aren't good . . . we're in trouble.

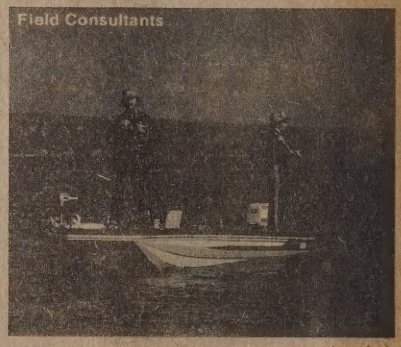
How buying products from a fisherman's company can make a difference in what you get. At Berkley, our main business is fishing tackle. We don't make chemicals, or tape or bowling balls. If we go to the marketplace with bad tackle and make people mad at us, we're in big trouble. We don't have a lot of other products to take up the slack. We have to do a better job. So we have to be in touch with what *you* want, build it the best way we know how, and then get it to you. That's response . . . without a lot of big corporation hoo-ha.

The same—but different . . . and better. We like to think Berkley is the same kind of company it was almost 30 years ago when it was founded by Berkley Bedell. Personal, friendly, informal . . . in touch with the fishermen. In fact, a fisherman's fishing tackle company. A company that pays attention to all the little details that make a good product a great product—from product design to customer service.

Scientist/fisherman . . . or is it the other way around? Commitment is a cheap word these days. Everyone seems to have it . . . from rock musicians to car manufacturers. At Berkley, we don't talk about it much, but we have people who live it every day. People like Paul Johnson and Gary Oberg.

Paul heads up Berkley's Design and Development Department—one of the largest—and we think the best—in the industry. Gary designs rods and reels. So they can test new products. Before they reach the fisherman...and before the fisherman spends hard cash on a product that isn't quite right.


Gary Oberg



Berkley's Field Consultants. The newest members of the Berkley team are nine Field Consultants who cover every part of the country, every fishing discipline. Five of the nine are top-rated tournament bass fisherman. They don't compromise and we won't either. You get the benefit with Berkley fishing tackle.

This kind of thinking runs all the way through Berkley...top-to-bottom. Like "Doc" Egger the Sales Manager who'd rather meet a confirmed Berkley fisherman than see Ohio State win on a Fall Saturday, or Leo Kofoot, our Quality Control Manager, who once caught the Iowa state record muskie.

What does all this mean to you? Maybe nothing. But in this age of bigness and of letters written and signed by a computer, isn't it good to know that somewhere out there in the cornfields of Northwest Iowa there's a little company of people who give a damn . . . about you, about the products they make and you buy, about the sport of fishing and all the enjoyment it can bring.

Berkley

Berkley and Company
Spirit Lake, Iowa 51360

Want some timely tips on tackle? Write Berkley and Company, Dept FM-05 for our fishing facts. Please enclose 25¢ to cover postage and handling.